SUNDAY MAGAZINE

Boy Abunda bares

his love life: How two different people but of the same gender prove rules do not apply to a lifetime commitment.

LIFESTYLE / C1

Enter the torrid

zone of romance, the Boutique Bed and Breakfast in the cool climes of Tagaytay.

ENTERTAINMENT / G3

Life led in the

headlines: Blogosphere autopsies the life of swipper turned celebrity Anna Nicole Smith, and the findings are brutal.

JOB Market

The best careers start here

ENTERTAINMENT / H1

Where to go on Feb. 14:

Check out the listing of the shows where you and your beau dine on Valentine's Day can fall in love over again forever.

PNP guards bar Villars from Erap's Tanay estate

By Norman Bordadora

THE LUNCH WAS READY, BUT THE GUESTS could not get in.

Senate President Manuel Villar and his wife, Las. Pilar Erap. Cynthia Villar, yesterday arrived at the vacation estate of Joseph Estrada in Tanay, Rizal, but the deposed President's police

PNP GUARDS, A2

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Sunday, February 11, 2007 ★★ 11 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 65 P10 website: www.inquirer.net

Say it ain't so, Manny, fans implore Pacquiao

By Christian V. Esguerra and Tina G. Santos

WHAT MAKES MANNY Pacquiao run?

Politicians appear to have succeeded in luring the boxing superstar

SPORTS, A1

COOKING UP A DECISION AT LE SOUFFLE: Already it was late Friday night but the Wednesday Club and its formidable four had yet to fork over their recipe for unity. Breaking bread at Le Souffle at Rockwell, Makati City—and as it turned out breaking up as well—were from left, Senate President Manny Villar, Senators Ralph Recto, Francis Pangilinan and Joker Arroyo.

Villar, 'Kiko' to go solo

Wednesday Group splits; Joker, Ralph join GMA team

By Norman Bordadora and Cynthia D. Balana

SENATE PRESIDENT MANUEL VILLAR WILL CAST HIS LOT with the United Opposition (UNO), Senators Ralph Recto and Joker Arroyo will go with Team Unity, and Sen. Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan will strike out on his own.

Ousted President and UNO leader Joseph Estrada yesterday confirmed that the opposition coalition would adopt Villar as a candidate in its senatorial ticket.

Estrada also confirmed that detained Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes (one of the leaders of the 2003 Oakwood mutiny), former Sen. Letecia Ramos-Shahani and Bukidnon Rep. Teofisto Guingona III were being seriously considered as UNO candidates.

Villar, Pangilinan, Recto and Arroyo, the four senators comprising the Wednesday Group, agreed to go their separate ways, at least for the senatorial elections, according to a highly placed source.

At their second meeting on Friday night at the Le Souffle restaurant in Makati City, Villar and Pangilinan decided to run as independent candidates with the full backing of their respective political parties, the source said.

Villar is president of the Nacionalista Party, while Pangilinan belongs to the Liberal Party wing headed by Sen. Franklin Drilon.

The source said Recto and Arroyo were set to join the administration's Team Unity ticket. This was confirmed in a text message to the Inquirer by Gabriel Claudio, President Macapagal-Arroyo's adviser on political affairs and representative of the ruling Lakas-CMD in Team Unity's recruiting panel.

VILLAR, A4

WHAT'S INSIDE

RETIREMENT is not in Fr. Pierre Tritz's vocabulary even at 92.

METRO / A18

AUTOPSY GIVES NO clues in the "sudden, unexplained" death of Anna Nicole Smith. More tests ordered.

WORLD / A20

ROBERT DEAN BARBERS, Philippine Tourism Authority chief, and his family escaped an alleged kidnap try in Batan, Batangas.

NEWS / A2

SEAFOOD Vi..a..gr..a or Vitamins and Green Algae, finalist in a World Bank development tilt, is the entry of renowned Pinoy inventor Bonifacio Comandante.

NEWS / A4

RANDY DAVID: Why movie actors get elected: Lito Lapid once sent his horse in his stead when he couldn't attend a rally in Pampanga.

OPINION / A11

FROM HIGH COURT TO COURT OF LAST RESORT. "With Due Respect" is the title of the weekly column of former Supreme Court Chief Justice Artemio V. Panganiban starting today in the Inquirer (Page A11). Described by Justice Antonio J. Carpio as "undoubtedly the most prolific writer of the court, bar none," Panganiban was the keynote speaker at the Ayala Young Leaders Congress, which is the subject of his first column and the photo above. Ayala Corp. invited 15 of the most outstanding student leaders. In a playful moment, Ayala chair emeritus Jaime Zobel de Ayala looked like he was crying to upstage his special guest.

Educators can learn from DVD pirates

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—EDUCATORS CAN LEARN a thing or two from their friendly neighborhood DVD pirates, according to an information technology company (IT) based here.

With the shortage of classrooms, teachers could record and distribute their lectures on DVD or transmit quizzes through the Internet, said Elmer Soriano, president of ThinkLab Solutions Inc.

The success of pirated DVDs should make educators realize that materials solicited through the Internet can be distributed faster and cheaper using this "pipeline," he added.

EDUCATORS, A8

Jolo's 'highway of death' now boulevard of dreams

By Fe Zamora

JOLO, SULU—ONCE KNOWN AS THE Highway of Death, Datag Road which traverses Parang and Panamao now teems with life. Clusters of children strolling to school, farmers on roadsides drying coconut meat for copra, and houses bustling with men tying abaca fibers into bales.

Across the street where stands a concrete memorial to Brig. Gen. Teodulfo Bautista and 35 officers and men who were massacred along this road on Oct. 30, 1977, a group of women busy themselves with their laundry, water running generously from a deep well pump.

At the barangay health center beside the memorial, mothers with babies await their turn with a midwife, the closest thing to a doctor they have, at least for now.

Driving across Parang after 7 p.m. used to be a race for life, with gunmen seeming to lurk behind every tree.

Not anymore. The once dark, desolate

JOLO'S, A6

PROMISING PROSPECTS: A five-year development program in the municipality of Luuk includes a fishport, a well-lit boulevard like Manila's baywalk. And soon this high school student will be going to school in a new building funded by the US.

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Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon: Eastern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered light rains. Northern Mindanao will be mostly cloudy with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

Metro Manila	Cloudy with rain	Cotabato/General	Cloudy with rain
Baguio	Cloudy with rain	Davao	Cloudy with rain
Legazpi	Cloudy with rain	Cebu	Cloudy with rain
Laoag	Cloudy with rain	Zamboanga	Cloudy with rain
Clark/Tarlac	Cloudy with rain	Cdo/Bukidnon	Cloudy with rain
Iloilo	Cloudy with rain	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with rain
Kalibo/Boracay	Cloudy with rain	Puerto Princesa	Cloudy with rain
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with rain	Tagbilaran (Bohol)	Cloudy with rain
Calapan	Cloudy with rain	Tacloban	Cloudy with rain

PTA's Barbers, kin escape kidnap try

By Jerome Aning and Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

BARBERS

PHILIPPINE TOURISM Authority General Manager Robert Dean Barbers narrowly escaped being kidnapped while driving with his family in Butuan, Butangas, yesterday.

Barbers said a car with four men blocked the Ford Explorer he was driving at the Butuan-Surigao proper.

"I heard one saying, 'It's him, it's him' and the other replying, 'Okay, let's get him,' so I thought I was about to become a Batman-ping] moment," Barbers said in a phone interview.

The PTA official believed he and his family were saved by alert rural journalist, later identified as Benjie Aclao, who saw what was happening and began taking photos with his cell phone. This apparently riveted off the men, Barbers said.

"He's the angel who saved us, thanks to his alertness," said Barbers, adding that his wife, Emma, also managed to take photos of the incident using her cell phone.

Supt. Ferdinand de Castro said two of the suspects were a policeman, and a member of the Philippine Air Force.

De Castro said policeman Asa Virtudes and a Corey Mendoza had been arrested. Two other suspects—Fitzmarie's brothers Ismel, a member of the Barangay Intelligence Network in Batangas City and Nilo, a PMI technical sergeant—were still at large.

The Virtudes are sons of a barangay captain of San Jose town, said De Castro.

Barbers, who had no security escort, was driving with his wife and three children to a beach resort in Mabini, Batangas, for the weekend.

He said the suspects, who were in a Mitsubishi Adventure, first tried to block his car in San Jose town but he was able to get away. He said the suspects were switched vehicles, in a Toyota Revo, and chased them all the way to Butuan and were trying to force him off the road and ramming at him to get down.

After he stopped one of his vehicles, two of the suspects, one of whom was shirtless, poked guns at him. Seeing their road traffic was heavy, Barbers said he opened all the windows of his SUV and appealed to the suspects to spare his family.

He said he identified himself and asked what the problem was. When the suspects saw that they were being videotaped by Aclao, they backed off.

The FBI chief said the hotel police told him he may have a point in his claim of a "day kidnapping," in which people get kidnapped for a day and released after a small ransom is paid.

Barbers said his youngest daughter, aged six, may have been traumatized but the other two, aged 10 and 14, seemed fine, apart from.

"They finished their school exam this weekend and were tagging me for an outing, so I decided to take them to the beach," he said.

De Castro said Jon Virtudes arrived at the police station to report the incident just a few minutes after Barbers.

"Barbers immediately told us that Virtudes was one of the men who supposedly tried to abduct them," he said.

Mendoza was standing just outside the Butuan police station, pending his bail for a September, when he was arrested.

Nilo recovered the suspects' vehicle in front of the house of the Virtudes' father in Barangay Lakandi, San Jose.

They also found P198,000 in cash and the identification cards of the other suspects.

De Castro said they were preparing to file kidnapping and grave threat cases against the suspects.

Activists eagerly await UN probers

By Norman Bordadora

THE FAMILIES OF SLAIN ACTIVISTS yesterday expressed eagerness to meet with a team from the United Nations which will look into the extrajudicial killings in the country since President Macapagal-Arroyo assumed power in 2001.

Lawyer Philip Alston, UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions, was scheduled to arrive in Manila last night. His team would be in the country until Feb. 21 to investigate the killings.

"We look forward to meeting him and we hope that he will hear us out and help serve justice," Evangeline Fernandez, convener of Hamapa, an organization of families of victims of extrajudicial killings, told Cebu newsmen, Saturday.

Fernandez is the mother of Aurora de Dios-University student and human rights worker Benjelin Hernandez who was killed in an alleged encounter with the military in Compostela Valley in 2002. "We are ready to give our testimonies to him," she added.

Ephrin Cataluna, member of Umanong of the Philippines student liberals Cataluna, also expressed the hope that Alston would look into the forced disappearance of protected Bobby Balbuena.

"We've been looking for justice for the past eight months. Today as Mr. Alston arrives, we are very much happy. We hope that he also looks into our case," Cataluna said.

Alston's arrival comes to the wake of the killing of 34-year-old peasant leader Dalmacio Gandinao in Aliaga, Misamis Oriental. Gandinao was shot Thursday by a Tagalog-speaking gunman while having dinner with his wife and three grandchildren.

Now that the UN special rapporteur and his team are coming, we hope that they can help in stopping the killings," said Willi Machelle, secretary general of Bayang Magiliw Bohol-ng Pilipinas.

But the human rights group Karapatan expressed fears the government and its security forces might try to manipulate Alston.

"We hope Mr. Alston will maintain his independence despite attempts by government to limit his interaction with victims and human rights defenders," said Karapatan secretary general Marie Hilao-Enriquez.

Karapatan has said more than 800 people have been killed...allegedly by elements of the military since 2001. More than 200 of the victims were left-wing activists, Karapatan said.

Aside from meeting with civil society organizations, human rights groups and the victims' families, Alston will meet with Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales.

BSA reports from Grace Alberto, Inquirer Mindanao, and Evelyn Calunsi, Inquirer Northern Luzon

RP to provide security for US nurses' test here

By Leila B. Salaverria

NOW THAT THE PHILIPPINES HAS BEEN approved as a testing site for nurses seeking employment in the United States, the main concern is to ensure the security and integrity of the National Council Licensure Examinations (NCLEX) to be administered here.

"We will be providing the physical security and the safeguards to ensure there will be no leakage," said Marilyn Yap, former president of the Philippine Nurses Association.

"We believe we can ensure the security and management of the information system and the test itself."

Yap said the government has already gotten in touch with the local counterpart of Pearson Vue, an international company providing secure computerized nursing services, to help administer the NCLEX.

Yap, who was one of those who helped to lobby for approval of the Philippines as a testing site, said the country would also have to ensure that the physical security for the testing sites are adequate.

But she stressed the Philippines would have no participation in formulating the questions or the policies for the NCLEX since the test is administered by the US.

Yap believed the country's satisfactory handling of the test leak controversy that marred the June 2006 nursing licensure examination, wherein the 123 test passers of the Philippines qualified to NCLEX site.

"They were convinced we can test all of them to weed's the situation and punish all those who were liable for the matter," she said.

She also believed the country's selection showed that the test leak controversy had not left an untoward effect.

The administration of the NCLEX in the Philippines will mean substantial savings for Filipino nurses taking the exams. Previously, exam takers had to travel to Hong Kong or Taiwan.

Already 3,000 Filipinos take the NCLEX exam each year.

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Filipino inventor unveils his latest: Seafood Vi.a.gr.a

By Alan Pal
Inquirer Visayas

IMMANUEL CITY—EVERSINCE PHILIP Emmanuel Commander Benedicto Commandante is again poised to win another accolade for another scientific breakthrough.

Commandante, the marine biology graduate student of Silliman University who invented the technology whereby live fish may be transported without water, has been chosen as a finalist in the 2007 Global Development Marketplace competition of the World Bank in Washington, DC, on May 15-23.

This time, Commandante's study on introducing vitamin-enriched seafood through oral-administered capsules has emerged as one of 104 finalists from 43 countries from which about 10 grand prize winners will receive grants from the World Bank.

Commandante's entry which he called "Seafood Vi.a.gra," an acronym for "Vitamins and Union Algae," survived two rounds of assessment that brought together roughly 250 health and development experts from inside and outside the World Bank. Some 224 assessors volunteered in the first round in early January, and 58 returned to participate in the second round a month later, along with nine newcomers, according to the World Bank.

"This is good news. But I need your spiritual support now more than ever. This is a good chance to advance the things we have to offer," Commandante said in an e-mail to the INQUIRER.

In 2003, Commandante limited over 150 assessors from 38 countries at the University of the Philippines Diliman to win the grand prize competition for his technology of transporting live fish without water.

The vitamin-enriched seafood was second place in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology-Philippine Emerging Startups Open (MIT Peso) Challenge, considered the playoffs in technology in the Philippines, two weeks ago.

The MIT-Peso Challenge is a technology and innovation-oriented business plan competition in the Philippines that uses the MIT $50,000 model to build a collaborative entrepreneurial environment that cultivates high-value, globally competitive companies that not only create jobs, but also provide incentives for Filipino professionals to remain in the country.

Development Marketplace, on the other hand, is a competitive grant program of the World Bank. The Bank's creative, small-scale development projects that deliver results and have the potential to be expanded or replicated.

This annual contest, which paired up with the World Bank Health, Nutrition and Population (HNP) unit to focus on improving health, nutrition and population services for the poor, attracted a record high of nearly 2,500 applicants.

Church marks World Day of Sick

IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH MARKS THE liturgical memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes today, the faithful will also celebrate the 15th World Day of the Sick.

The World Day of the Sick, held on a different continent each year, will be held in Seoul, Korea this year with the theme, "The Spiritual and Pastoral Care of Patients with Incurable Diseases."

In the Philippines, the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta, together with the Archdiocese of Manila celebrated the World Day of the Sick at the Baptist Asian Parish Church in Tayuman, Manila yesterday.

The event brought together around 1,000 sick and elderly, many in wheelchairs, from the different parishes, clinics, parishes, outreach centers and hospitals in Metro Manila and neighboring provinces.

The Mass was celebrated by Jaime Cardinal Sin and concelebrated by about 20 priests in the building yesterday.

The Order of Malta's Advocacy Program for HIV/AIDS said in its website, "Prevention of October to Child Transmission of HIV/AIDS" was a fitting response to this year's theme of care for patients with incurable diseases.

US legacy of toxic waste in RP should make Iraqis wary, says 'peacemaker'

By Rosario Ovejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CLARK AIRBASE—THE TOXIC WASTE the United States military left behind at its two former bases in the Philippines and the health problems these caused the local populace could provide a lesson for Iraqis opposing the presence of US bases in their country, according to a US peace advocate.

"The former US bases here are reminiscent to the toxicity of nuclear warfare," said Gene Stoltzfus, founder of Christian Peacemaker Teams, an incredible hot zone in Iraq.

Stoltzfus ended on Feb. 2 a month-long visit to the former Clark Air Base in Pampanga and the Subic Naval Base in Zambales to prepare for future peacemaker delegations to the Philippines.

The Inquirer obtained a copy of Stoltzfus' article, "Recovering from this Age of Toxicity," from the People's Task Force for Base Cleanup (PTFBC), one of the groups that he met with on his visit here.

"I hope that even in the midst of your darkest hours in Iraq you might have the opportunity of sending an official or unofficial delegation here to the Philippines to visit these abandoned military facilities so that grassroots citizens here can show you how firm and vigilant you have to be in dealing with nations that install foreign bases in your country," Stoltzfus, 57, told his friends who work as peacemakers in Iraq.

He said he had visited several former Subic base workers suffering from lung problems because of asbestos poisoning in a result of handling material used as covers for ammunition or munitions in stockpiles.

He said they "described the difficulty they have experienced in getting medical help from either their former American employers or the Philippine government."

"Neither government wants to assume responsibility or liability," he said.

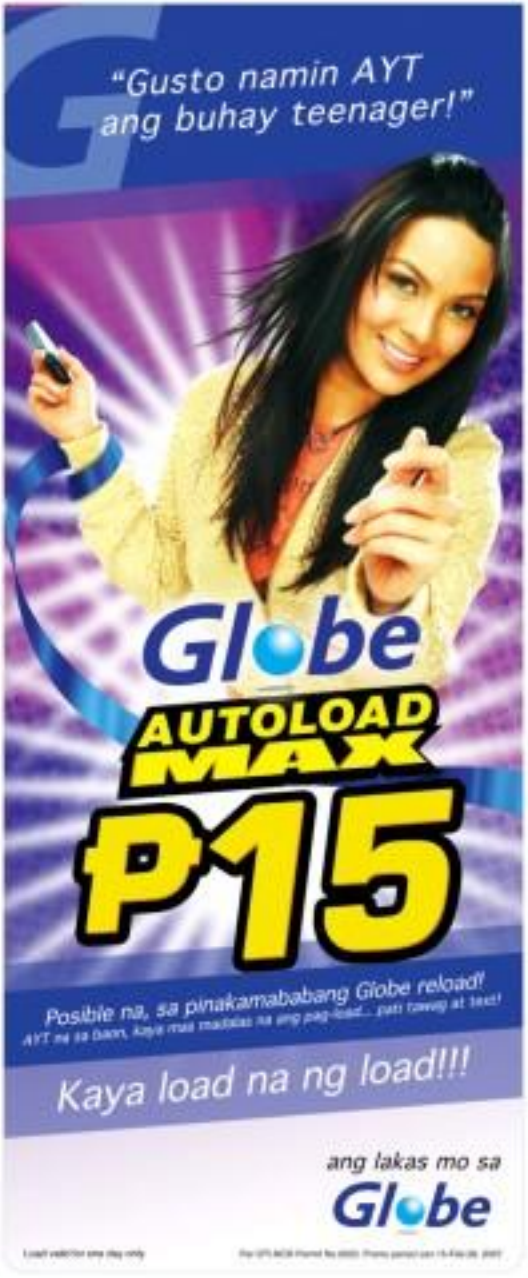
Stoltzfus said his group would help in "the hard work of scientific research and agitation to alert the world to the price that will inevitably be paid to restore our earth and its civilization to health."

Myrla Baldemoro, PTFBC executive director, said there was a "huge body of evidence of contamination" at Clark and Subic.

She said this had been confirmed by the US General Accounting Office, the investigative arm of the US Congress, the US Department of Defense and an environmental study conducted by Weston International.

The Philippine Department of Health also confirmed the high levels of lead and arsenic in the blood of several refugee from the Mt. Pinatubo eruption in the '90s evacuees who lived at the Clark Air Base Command, a former motor pool of the US Air Force.

The Clark Development Corp., the government agency overseeing the development of the former US base into an economic zone, sealed off old wells and contracted a private company to conduct regular tests for toxic substances. CDC officials have repeatedly said that Clark's water was safe for drinking.



PNP guards bar Villars from Erap's Tanay estate

To page A2

gaunly turned them away.

A frustrated Estrada told the bystanders that the police custodial team prevented the Villars from entering the estate on the basis of orders from higher ups to limit the ex-President's visitors to members of his family and lawyers.

Estrada said the agenda for the meeting was the Senate president's inclusion in the United Opposition's senatorial slate. (See story on Page A12.)

"We were supposed to discuss that. How can we discuss when we are not allowed in?" he said.

National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales had earlier revealed supposed intelligence information that the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army, were planning to kill Estrada.

As a result, the Philippine National Police has imposed restrictions on Estrada's visitors, and even on his personal communications via mobile phones.

"But he's the Senate president. How could he have been a threat?" Estrada said.

"It's a pity. They came a long way to get here," he added, referring to the two-hour drive through the hills of Rizal.

Known to be a gracious host, Estrada had lunch prepared for his visitors.

"[The guards] said they couldn't allow the Villars in. They said they had orders from higher-ups," Estrada said.

Asked if the guards' decision to bar Villar from seeing him had affected UNO's political time frame, he said: "Yes. Slightly."

He said he was trying to call Makati Mayor and UNO president Jejomar Binay to see what the opposition coalition could do to remedy the situation.

Estrada also said he had been having difficulty with his mobile communications.

"It's only by chance that I managed to get hold of my phone at this time," he said.

FILE PHOTO of former President Joseph Estrada with wife, Dra. Loi Estrada, driving a golf cart around the Tanay, Rizal estate. He was denied by new restrictions on his visitors like Villar. "Is the Senate president a threat?"

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Villar, 'Kiko' to go solo

To page A2

"Yes, we are adopting him," Estrada told the business in reference to Villar. "The three others (Defensor, Shahani and Cayetano III) are still undecided between the senator."

Estrada said the four names had been relayed to him by Makati Mayor and UNO president Jejomar Binay as those being considered for the last four slots in the opposition coalition's senatorial lineup for the May 14 elections.

Almost complete

Team Unity has filmed up its first 18 slots with tomorrow's deadline set for filing of candidacies looming closer.

Sealing the tug-of-war between the administration and the opposition over the members of the Wednesday Group, Recto and Arroyo will get the latter's son Sen. Edgardo Aquino and former Senator Vicente "Tito" Sotto III and Team Aquino-Trenas, two erstwhile UNO members, who were given slots in the administration ticket despite grumbling from Makati-ning's loyal allies.

A source in the Palace privy to the negotiations revealed Pangilinan could join Team Unity within the next 48 hours.

The source privy to the Wednesday Group meeting said the members had vowed to regroup if elected.

"What is important is they respect each other's decision," the source said.

Astounding to the source, Arroyo was encouraged by the results of the latest Pulse Asia survey showing him in the winning circle of senatorial preferences but he was saddled by stark of heads to contain a campaign.

The source said there is not the problem joining Team Unity but his wife, Liza Maza of Gabriela Sisters, was a member of Lakas and an avid supporter of the President.

Pangilinan's discomfort

Pangilinan comments can be impending separation of the group, Pangilinan said: "It's never over until it's over."

He continued: "In the event that we fail to reach a consensus, Senator President Villar and I are open to pushing for the LP-NP coalition to run separate tickets for the national campaign."

The source said Pangilinan was not member-size-wise in the election he was being drafted by UNO just to complete its senatorial slate.

"He does not like some people in UNO and there are some to campaign for others in the ticket," the source said. "He knows that in the end, he will also be junked."

In the case of Villar, a real estate magnate and the wealthiest among the four senatorial, the source said the decision to go solo was not difficult to make.

In the last senatorial election, Villar first ran as an independent but was later adopted by the administration as a guest candidate.

"Of the senatorial aspirants, it's going to be Villar who would not hesitate to spend the most for his endorsement," the source said, adding that Villar needed to retain the post of Senate president for his planned run for the presidency in 2010.

Only temporary

Villar himself hinted at the possibility of the Wednesday Group members each or doing one-on-one.

Speaking yesterday on Vice President Noli de Castro's radio program, "Para sa Iyo, Bayan," Villar said the group members would make public their final decisions today and file their certificates of candidacy tomorrow.

"All I can say is that whatever happens, the group will not be broken. While we can't say that for certain in the coming elections, whatever separation is only temporary," he said in Filipino.

In an interview with the reporters, De Castro said he was resigned to the fact that all four of his friends would not be able to run under one senatorial ticket.

But he said he would actively campaign for each of them in all his speaking engagements to ensure their victory.

Muslim vote

In Iligan City, Lanao del Norte Gov. Imelda Quibranza Dimaporo said the delay in the completion of Team Unity's senatorial slate could be due to Mr. Arroyo's determination to get the support of Muslim voters.

Dimaporo, a close ally of the President, told the reporters that the administration was keen on having a candidacy who could "effectively deliver Muslim votes."

She said she was invited to join the slate "because they think I can tap the Muslims and also gather more Visayan votes" for Team Unity.

But she declined the offer.

Dimaporo belongs to the Quibranza family, an old political family in the province. She is married to Lanao del Norte Rep. Abdullah Dimaporo, the current chair of Lakas in Congressional Commission on Appointments.

"I was flattered to be drafted because many others are lining up to seek it. But it's quite costly to run a senatorial campaign," she said.

Dimaporo also said that while the focus of the administration's preparations was its senatorial lineup, it is also eager for its candidates' victory in the congressional elections.

She said the President also wanted local political leaders to fully support Team Unity.

In the past, local political leaders allied with the administration were given leeway to pick their senatorial candidates.

"It has changed now with this political dynasties," Dimaporo said. *With reports from Old C. Cabacungan Jr. in Manila, Ryan Rosauro, Inquirer Mindanao*

Angara: Amid tug-of-war, let's unite for the nation

SENATOR EDGARDO J. ANGARA HAS called for national unity and reconciliation amid the highly charged political tug-of-war, and urged national leaders to look beyond partisan politics.

Addressing the national officers of the Liberal ng Demokrasyang Pilipino (LDP) party during its convention-assembly yesterday, the LDP president urged his party mates to rise in moving the country forward, rather than loosening the cause of deeper political divisiveness.

"Let us show the nation that we can be united, not only in party battle, but more importantly, in providing a brighter future for each and every Filipino. Leaders must come together not necessarily because they like each other, but because they stand on common principles and fight for common values. We, as politicians and leaders, must show them that we have a common vision, a solid platform of governance to offer our people," Angara said in a press statement.

On Wednesday, Angara accepted the offer of President Macapagal-Arroyo to join the administration's Team Unity, joining former LDP party mates former Senators Vicente Sotto III and Teresa Aquino-Oreta in the administration coalition.

But Angara promised to stay with the LDP and continue to maintain his independence.

"I am not switching political affiliations. I shall continue to be and remain in LDP, the only political party I joined during my entire political career. I am joining a unity ticket where people of different opinions come together for the sake of national progress and unity," Angara said.

He added, "Before it deteriorating, theft in lame and ugliness, rabid is open. Politics should be a means to the best of people. We should not be seen as a destructive force, which in fact has caused the people's wide mistrust of politicians."

"When we need are serious and meaningful legislation which can only be achieved through consensus, lawmakers cannot enough to settle productive bipartisanship," said Angara.

He stressed the need for a consensual rather than confrontational, and conservative rather than divisive, brand of politics in order to successfully push for reforms. As the longest-serving legislator, Angara was responsible for numerous major reform laws in education, health, rural development, social welfare, good governance, economics and finances, and arts and culture.

While joining the administration ticket, Angara said he remained committed to pursuing more initiatives that would help ensure the country forward. As such he joined the unity coalition on the clear understanding that key programs in social expenditures, education, health, infrastructure, agricultural modernization, jobs creation and environmental protection will be the priority.

THEM. TODA Adrian Sison, ex-VFA Commodore Encinas Parreño and Dr. Martin Bautista are running for the Senate under Ang Kapatiran party.

PALACE PET. Rep. Prospero Pichay waves to supporters.

QUALITY, DAILY goes Dureza-Remulla, chair of Ang Lakas party, to be his bet for a Senate seat.

Palace still hoping Pinay will be freed

By Jil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG SAID TESTERday it remained optimistic of successfully negotiating the release of Filipino hostages in Nigeria.

"We assure families of the victims that the government is on top of the situation and our best efforts are being exerted to ensure that all will be taken out of harm's way," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a statement.

No scenario of despair

"Let us not engage in speculation and scenarios of despair but use dealing with this incident systematically and with sensitivity and we are hopeful that a favorable outcome will be well within reach," Bunye added.

Twenty-six Filipinos have been abducted by gunmen in oil-rich Nigeria during the past two months. They include 24 seamen, an engineer and Jeaniebeth Fernando, a Filipino married to an Iranian businessman. The seamen were the crew of the Iranian-hired cargo vessel Shoo Liner 8 who have been held captive by militants since Jan. 23.

'THIS IS IT'

Pichay leads new batch of candidates

By Jaymee Aning

BARGAIN LIKE HIM FOR PROSPERO PICHAY, a staunch ally of the administration, yesterday filed his certificate of candidacy for senator.

Pichay is the second administration candidate to file his candidacy, after Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri.

Both are running under the ruling Lakas-CMD.

"This is it, there's no turning back," Pichay told reporters after emerging from the law department of the Commission on Elections in Manila.

Earlier in the day, gay rights activist Danton Remoto and former undersecretary Tomas Morales also filed their candidacies for senator.

Pichay was accompanied by his brother and about 100 supporters wearing shirts printed with the words "Pro-Pinoy." His entourage included close grandmasters Mark Paragua, Wesley Macinas and Joey Antonio and other members of the National Chess Federation of the Philippines.

The three-term congressman said he had doubted on the last certificate early because "you can never tell what's going to happen" on Feb. 12, the last day for filing.

"What if you get stuck in heavy traffic, or accidentally get sick?" he said.

Dismay

Pichay took the chance to express dismay that Team Unity appeared to be sacrificing its principles with the inclusion of opposition politicians Sonia Aquino-Orteza and Vicente "Tito" Sotto III, both former senators.

He said he had no personal issues with Orteza and Sotto but expressed the belief that candidates outshining partymates would ultimately lose in the elections, even if they had led in surveys.

Nevertheless, Pichay said the administration coalition remained "solid as ever" and would "work hard for the victory of its candidates."

Pichay also said that as far as he knew, there would be no moves in the Team Unity senatorial lineup.

He said Richard Gomez and Cesar Montano were "never considered from the very beginning."

Gay pride

Pitch his party-list group Ang Ladlad still unable to get accreditation from the Comelec in participation in the May elections, Danton Remoto decided to run for senator instead.

Wearing a pink barong, the 43-year-old Remoto filed his certificate as an independent candidate at around 1:0 a.m.

He told reporters that he would run "to give voiceless voice," adding that his platform would be "education and human rights for all."

Ang Ladlad, which seeks to represent the causes of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Filipinos, has been waiting for its accreditation to be able to run for a seat in the House of Representatives.

"I'm running for the Senate because I don't want the issue of LGBT advocacy to die," Remoto said. "In politics, as in life, absence does not make the heart grow fonder."

Remoto, who teaches at Ateneo de Manila University, said he would also push for the causes of President Macapagal-Arroyo—actually one of Ang Ladlad's platforms.

"Truth and consequence are my points for the removal of the President," he said, citing surveys showing that Ang Ladlad was strong because of its stand against the administration and its policies.

"Only God knows," Remoto said after he was asked where he thought the Comelec would approve the group's accreditation.

He said he was positive about his chances of winning given Ang Ladlad's 16,000 members and the support

of about four million Filipinos belonging to the LGBT community.

Tomorrow is the deadline for party-list groups to file their manifestation of intent to participate in the May elections.

Ang Kapatiran

Encinas Parreño will be running under the political party Ang Kapatiran (The Brotherhood). He was accompanied by his party mates, lawyer Adrian Sison and Dr. Martin Bautista, who will also be running for senator.

Parreño said he head the government panel that oversaw implementation of the JPEAS Visiting Forces Agreement.

He was fired by the President because of his public disagreement with the way the executive branch construed criminal cognac US Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith to American custody even without a court order.

While acknowledging that their chances of winning looked like a long shot, Parreño, Bautista and Sison said their party would provide an alternative to people fed up with traditional politics.

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FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY

Jolo's 'highway of death' now a road of hope

From page A1

and dangerous road now boasts of houses where, at night, to scenes were seen before, limitless pocket-sized television sets.

No longer ghost town

"Indeed is not a ghost town anymore," Mayor Brig. Gen. Ituaeles Jaldaan told the InterAksyon.

In September, Jaldaan's troops scored one of their biggest successes by killing Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khadaffy Janjalani in a gunfight in a remote village, leaving the bandit group without a leader.

Surprises

Now, the Highway of Death has become a source of life, boasting of communities enlivened with the air services, like markets, schools, public education and medical assistance.

More surprises await the visitor.

After sundown, the place across the Provincial Capitol blooms with colored lights, pyrotechnics from a sound system and neo-bonanza.

The imposing, mosque-inspired, all-white capitol serves as a backdrop to the Jolo wonderland.

Children at play

At daytime, children play on the new lawn, or romp around a swing and other playground facilities, including a skating rink.

The wide road has become a perfect venue for teenagers taking evening breezes.

Its open-air mall serves native pastries, such as pastil and lumay (a porridge), tea or coffee.

Entrepreneur Sixto Sulo, 45, who owns one of the cafés, said she earns as much as P3,000 on weekdays, and P6,000 on Saturday nights, when the place stays lighted until near midnight.

"That's not income, double, I don't pay rent for the space. The governor has given it for free," Sulo said.

Changing the image

"The goal is to remove the stigma of Jolo as a dangerous place," Gov. Benjamin Loong said, explaining his reason for the presence.

Since his election as governor in 2004, Loong has been leading a campaign to erase Jolo's reputation as the "kidnapping capital," earned following the 2000 kidnapping by the Abu Sayyaf of 21 mostly foreign tourists from a diving resort in Sipadan Island in Malaysia.

A year after the Abu Sayyaf et. al. kidnapped American missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham and 18 others from the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan,

By 2002, US special forces had entered the fight, taking active part in efforts to recover the hostages and crush the Abu Sayyaf.

The presence of the Americans seemed to appeal to the local Muslims.

At a football session at Lalik Elementary School along Dasug Road, about 10 American troops, including a Fil-Am who spoke fluent Filipino, and a Spanish-American who understood Chavacano, mingled freely with the residents.

LIFE AFTER DARK. The plaza across the provincial capitol lights up as the rhythms of pop music and the soothing splash of two fountains. The all-white, mosque-themed capitol is a backdrop to a mostly tranquil night in Jolo. AFP/JOEL

Sgt. Tim Moyer, spokesperson for the American soldiers under the Joint Special Operations Task Forces, maintained the US troops were there strictly for non-combat operations.

"There are a lot of people who do not want us here, that's why they make up stories (that we are involved in combat)," Moyer said.

"This is still about winning hearts and minds, but we are bolder in the sense that we go for the personal touch," Jaldaan said.

Matchbooks, bottled water

Entertainment is part of the day-long activity in town.

While waiting for their turn at the dental clinic, children and adults watch the film "The Message: The Story of Islam," a lively musical production starring Anthony Quinn and Irene Papas. The film has been dubbed in Tausug.

Filipino soldiers distribute posters, comic books about how it is to live life in peace, and matchbooks with the pictures of wanted terrorists Dulmatin, Jovanie P. Pithi (million) and Jamal Ahnt Ibn Ji. Jerward P.P.S million).

Also printed on the matchbooks are telephone numbers to call or send text messages for free in case of sightings of any of the rascal-terrorists.

Last year, the troops distributed bottled water with a picture of Janjalani and telephone numbers to call posted on the label.

Welcome to cyberspace

The US presence is also felt in the so-called enclaves of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), a Muslim group that signed a peace deal with Manila in 1996.

At the Datamar National High School, teenagers crowd around Encompass units as they receive basic lessons on the new technology and access to the Internet via a satellite provided by the US troops.

In Lauk town, about 30 km from here, carpenters are busily fixing benches on two school buildings funded by the US government. The town's five-year development program includes a fish port, a cold storage and a mall in boulevard similar to the Boardwalk in Manila.

Tres Palmas

Interesting dubs no called blood-soaked beaches—a hotel turned for the notorious bottle that had taken place on the beachfront since the Spanish colonization—still promising the area as a tourist haven may yet provide the ultimate makeover for the island province.

Already, the Marinas have developed a resort they have dubbed Tres Palmas, after the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan, where the Burnhams and their companions were snatched by the then-Abu Sayyaf group six years ago.

Like its counterpart in Palawan, Tres Palmas has a boardwalk that leads to a hut in the middle of the waters.

The Marinas have dubbed another of the beach "Boracay" and "Tinkala," after the country's famous beaches were frequented by tourists.

The message is clear: with peace and development, Sulu has what it takes to be at par with the world's best.

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SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS ALVAREZ ON PICOP

The Supreme Court said "we glaring evidences of PICOP's non-compliance with the requirements of conversion the court should not condone such blatant disregard by those who believe they are above the law because of their sizeable investment and significant number of workers employed."

The SUPREME COURT upheld on Nov. 29, 2006 the decision of Sec. HEHERSON ALVAREZ in removing 75,000 hectares from PICOP logging concession due to its failure to abide with conversion rules and non-payment of P165 million in charges.

We condemn the demolition efforts against Alvarez whose courageous decision against PICOP, upheld by no less than the High Court, shows a grasp of the need for environmental self defense and security. 75,000 hectares is "carbon sink" and watershed, vital shield to protect us.

February 1991 - before the whole world took global warming very seriously - Alvarez convened the First Asia Pacific Leaders Conference on Climate Change (ASPAC-LCCC) in Manila. The ASPAC-LCCC was participated in by 28 Asia Pacific nations and addressed by the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Pres. Fidel Ramos, the President of Venezuela and leading environment scientists, thru the auspices of the United Nations Environmental Program. That Asia-Pacific Climate Change Conference aroused in our people, the government and the media a grave concern on the catastrophic consequences of global warming and climate change, especially to small island-nations like ours. The resulting Manila Declaration was presented at the conference of parties in Berlin in March 1995. Its conclusions were submitted by the Philippine delegation, led by Alvarez, to the Kyoto Protocol conference in Japan in December, 1997, and became part of its deliberations. That Asia-Pacific Conference mobilized the Executive and our bureaucracy to the grave challenges of global warming.

Signing of the "Manila Declaration" with Asia-Pacific Ministers, Manila Hotel, 1995

Alvarez's detractors question his motives. But his decisions show a vision of environmental protection consistent with his policy leadership:

1992 As Chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment, he authored the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS), the umbrella law that protects our forests and wildlife.

1993 He negotiated for over 3 years with the oil companies for the Healthy Air Pact that brought about the removal of lead from gasoline and the reduction of sulfur. A year later he crafted the Clean Air Act that addresses air pollution.

2002 **Diwalwal, A Mountain of Gold**

Diwalwal is a mountain that yielded P4-P5 billion of gold a year, and discovered by Mandaya Tribesmen, led by Chieftain Camilo Banzal in Sept. 23, 1983. Since then, however, Diwalwal became a bloody social wound of greed, power and violence in the conflict between small and huge interests, the lowly and the mighty, where at least 6,000 perished, including a judge and a mayor who were assassinated.

This picture changed when Alvarez proposed, and a DECISIVE PRESIDENT ARROYO signed Proclamation 297 Declaring Diwalwal a Mineral Reservation under the management of the DENR Secretary. Alvarez organized cooperatives that included indigenous groups, and a 60s-15% sharing scheme favoring small miners. It addressed pollution through the Mataros Dam. For the first time government collected taxes and unabated violence stopped. It established the ancestral claims of minorities and the rights of small-scale miners over the claim of PICOP's sister co., Southeast Mindanao (SEM) Gold Mining Corp. On June 23, 2006, the Supreme Court denied SEM's claim over the whole Diwalwal.

PRES. ARROYO called the Alvarez formula for Diwalwal "a crowning glory of service as DENR Secretary." Comp. Manuel "Way Kurat" Zamora of Diwalwal lauded his efforts "... to democratize wealth, create a middle class, mitigate the harm done to the environment."

Peaceful solution to Mt. Diwalwal with Rep. Manuel Zamora and small-scale miners, 5 smiled the 20-year bloodshed.

WE CANNOT LET UNCARING AND VESTED INTERESTS DESTROY OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE.

Alvarez's protection of the rights of minorities and small miners has been consistent with a well-informed and enduring defense of our environment, OUR FUTURE... We salute him!

Rep. Luzon Manuel Zamora • Rep. Antonio Cuenco Cebu • Rep. Carlos Bantug • Rep. Ramon Durano • Rep. Ramon Durano • Rep. Ramon Durano

Suspected bird flu carrier from Japan lands in Sorsogon

By Bobby Q. Lalusan
Regional Southern Luzon

SORSOGON CITY—THE PROVINCIAL VETERINARY Office has alerted local officials here Thursday so as to be on the look-out for possible avian flu-infected birds following the discovery of a heron which had legs that indicated had come from Japan.

Dr. Enrique Fajardo, provincial veterinarian, said the bird was found by a farmer in Irosin. Data were which is frequented by migratory birds because of its vast mangrove swamp.

The heron is included in the bird flu watch list.

Experts said herons, being wild, were normally difficult to capture.

But said the bird that flew in was very weak and appeared to be sick when found by the farmer who named it Cesar in honor Senate Cayetano.

Dona ordered the bird's immediate disposal.

Experts, however, said Dona should have detained the saga from the bird before it was buried in this could have helped determine more things about its background.

Alarmed by the incident, Gov. Raul Lee called for a meeting of all municipal mayors and provincial health officials on Tuesday to discuss the monitoring of migratory birds to prevent the entry of bird flu into the country.

During the last two months, there have been new outbreaks of the H5N1 avian influenza virus in Japan, Indonesia, Vietnam, South Korea, China, Thailand, Egypt, Hungary, Nigeria and Britain—each new outbreak was reported in Turkey, according to The Associated Press.

Lee said he had created a bird flu task force and it would be immediately mobilized to prevent the entry of the killer flu.

A team from the World Health Organization, meanwhile, was expected to visit Pinamalayan to check on the report.

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The official results of these scientific laboratory tests clearly revealed and certified that even in its most diluted form, the Boston C herbal extracts were still able to kill off more than half the population of cancer cells within 3-5 days, depending on the type of cancer. This means that when taken in its undiluted form and on a daily basis for a period of time, the herbal concoction will surely free of the body of cancer. And since these herbal extracts have an almost zero toxicity level, it can be taken liberally without damaging the rest of the body, thus making it the better and safer alternative to an operation, chemotherapy and radiation.

Boston C TRITON HERBS is a purified extracts of Nata de Coco and other herbal plants. It is very rich in vitamin C, which serves as an anti-oxidant and contains other phytochemicals known for their curative effects.

Through the years, **Boston C TRITON HERBS** herbal extracts have also been able to heal prostate, bone and brain cancers, bronchial asthma, cirrhosis of the liver, diabetes mellitus, edema, sinusitis, emphysema, hemorrhoid, rheumatoid arthritis, viral and bacterial infections, and psoriasis. It also lessens the recovery of people who have suffered from stroke and rehabilitates the kidneys of those undergoing dialysis.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, February 11, 2007
6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-8

Trust in the Lord

This is what Yahweh says, "Cursed is the man who trusts in human beings and depends on a mortal for his life, while his heart is distant away from Yahweh! He is like a bunch of shrubs in dry land, in parched desert places, in a salt land where no one lives and who never finds happiness.

"Blessed is the man who puts his trust in Yahweh and whose confidence is in him! He is like a tree planted by the water, sending out its roots towards the stream.

"He has no fear when the heat comes, his leaves are always green...In the year of drought is no problem and he can always bear fruit."

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 1:1-2, 3-4, 6

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20

If Christ has not been raised, your faith is in vain.

If Christ is preached as risen from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

If the dead are not raised, neither has Christ been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith gives you nothing, and you are still in sin. Also those who fell asleep in Christ are lost. If it is only for this life that we have hope in Christ, we are the most unfortunate of all people.

But no, Christ has been raised from the dead and he raised before all those who have fallen asleep.

Gospel: Luke 6:17, 20-26

Blessed are the poor. Woe to you who are rich.

Coming down the hill with them, Jesus stood on a level place. Many of his disciples were there and a large crowd of people who had come from all parts of Judea and Jerusalem and from the coastal cities of Tyre and Sidon.

Then looking at his disciples, Jesus said, "Fortunate are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours.

Fortunate are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

Fortunate are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

Fortunate are you when people hate you, when they reject you and insult you and slander you among mankind, because of the Son of Man. Be glad on that day and leap for joy for a great reward is kept for you in heaven. Remember that is how the ancestors of this people treated the prophets.

But alas for you who have wealth, for you have been rewarded now.

Alas for you who are full, for you will go hungry.

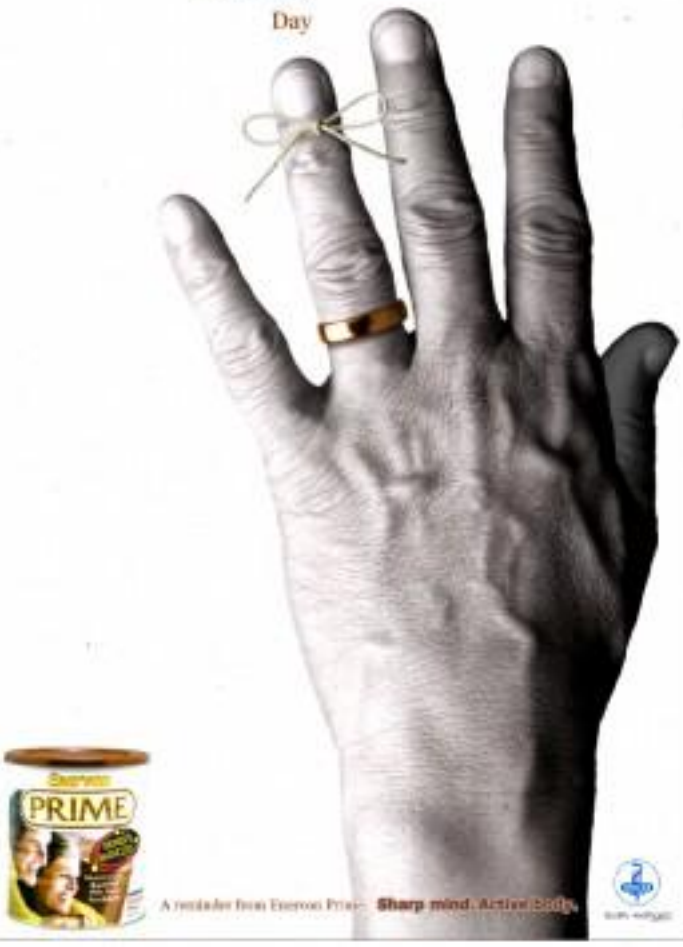
Alas for you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep.

Alas for you when people speak well of you, for that is how the ancestors of these people treated the false prophets."

Commentary:

We are called to Jesus which we will be the one who stands in the room, trusting the world and its people, or the one who trusts in God and is planted along running waters, bearing fruit in every season. Christ We thank Christ not from the disciplinarian by baptism, we turn from the fruits of resurrection. Jesus teaches us how to live the life of resurrection in the Beatitudes and he it was reminding us that for the poor, those who hunger and weep, and those who are persecuted for the gospel who know the Kingdom and the presence of God in struggle, and that those who obey the world and are rich, satisfied, thinks those who persecute others, blessing only to false prophets who tell them what they want to hear, are far from God and the Kingdom...standing in the same Christ that we must choose together.

Don't forget to say 'I Love You' this Valentine's Day



A reminder from Enervon Prime: **Sharp mind. Active body.**

For first time since 2000, foreign tourists return to Zamboanga

By Julie S. Alipala
Inquirer Mindanao

ZAMBOANGA CITY—SOME 300 foreigners, most of them Germans, arrived here yesterday for a visit on board the MS Albatross, a cruise ship, Mayor Celso Lobregat said.

Lobregat said the ship docked here for only 16 hours but its arrival served to greatly boost the city's image and economy.

The city has been suffering perception problems regarding law and order because of recent attacks perpetrated by terrorists.

It is also close to Basilan and Sulu, which are known strongholds of the Abu Sayyaf terror group.

This had caused many foreigners to stay away because of the high-profile kidnappings, including of Westerners, that the Abu Sayyaf had pulled off in recent years.

The last vessel carrying foreign tourists docked here in 2000.

"They may have been here for 16 hours only but their presence was enough to show the world that Zamboanga is a peaceful place," Lobregat said.

Jutta Rieß of Hanover, Germany, said she was happy to be in Zamboanga. She added that she was a bit dismayed because of the weather.

"I feel bad because it is drizzling. But this experience is something new," she said.

Asked if she had heard of the Abu Sayyaf, Rieß said: "I have no idea. I am just excited to see the local folks, the islands and the warm smiles."

Like the majority of those who joined the cruise, which started in Monaco in September last year, Rieß was retired from her job.

Local authorities said they provided adequate security to the tourists.

Edward Baylon, a customs security officer here, said soldiers and policemen were deployed to provide security to the tourists while they were in the city.

Vlad Ivic, a Ukrainian serving as one of the ship's security personnel and who did not provide a last name, said their next destination was Indonesia in Indonesia.

He said the MS Albatross would be docking back in Monaco on May 5.

Educators can learn from DVD pirates

From page A1

Most DVD pirates access movies through the Internet, so the same underground traders would be tapped to replicate information material for distribution through the universities.

The company, which sells "hyperclassroom" materials, hopes to convince teachers that IT has made education affordable for a new generation.

Hyperclassrooms allow teachers to give assignments through blogs (web logs), transmit lectures through video or audio streaming and respond to questions posted on the Internet by opening a browser chat room or by distributing video and audio-compact discs.

The technology also allows teachers to replace other learning areas such as online tests, tutorial services or even open an online school, he said.

ThinkLab offers teachers the web space for P200 a month, "but we are thinking of a way to eventually give it for free," according to Soriano.

Students can access the classrooms at internet shops for P15 an hour.

Hyperclassrooms

Hyperclassrooms are administered by borrowing an online Sim affiliated with ThinkLab.

Wilfredo Monzaña, a University of the Philippines Rapido management professor, signed up for a hyperclassroom so he could transmit lectures to his students in Cagayan.

Soriano, who taught management courses at the Ateneo de Manila University, said technology could solve Baguio's classroom shortage.

Many public high schools have held classes in shifts to accommodate the huge volume of students enrolled per semester.

Learning blogs

Soriano said teachers could augment teaching hours by posting lectures on their blogs. The actual time spent in classrooms could be used to discuss the day's lessons.

"That's already 30 percent additional classroom time," he said.

The project is part of a growing advocacy to use technology to educate more people. Through the Internet, the world's schools can upload all their readers and materials on the web as "open sources."

An open source refers to data which every one can access for free on the Internet.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) paved the way with its OpenCourseWare. This allowed materials used in the teaching of almost all the undergraduate and graduate subjects taught at MIT available on the web, free of charge, to any user, anywhere in the world.

According to Soriano, as university or research facility in the Philippines has followed MIT's lead yet.

Think Internet

Technology has evolved at such a remarkable pace, the cost of using the Internet in the Philippines has dropped.

Rolando Inlay of the University of the Philippines and Ateneo now offer online courses, adopting the correspondence school concept of the 1950s and distance education of the 1960s to the Internet.

According to Soriano, ThinkLab's priority is to get more teachers and students to conduct lessons "outside the brick-and-mortar classroom system."

"Too many good courses die because of the classroom system. We introduced this concept to Ateneo College Dean Lucio Tan and he told us they had to give up a unique course on indigenous law because they could not get enough students to attend in the evening," he said. "But the Internet can help teachers revive these courses."

He cited the case of a IP professor who boasted abroad to locals, only to return home recently "with her whole class."

"She now has to learn to use (video) through the Internet, so she does not miss class hours," Soriano said.

More DVDs than computers

He said readers showed that an answer to spend better to lessons aided by graphic and aural mediums, which the Internet offers.

"People are just more detached when communicating through the written word, but they are more spontaneous when interactions are read out or shown," Soriano said.

Teachers need not rely solely on the web because even the poorest communities have access to technology.

Statistics show that there are more households than ones DVD players than computer—resources which teachers could explore to supplement or augment lessons.

Teachers serving the "tricycle (slipped caved)," a reference to poor urban communities, could use the "tricycle-net (network)" of distributors by giving lectures in DVD format, Soriano said.

Say it ain't so, Manny, fans implore Pacquiao

From page A1

into the political arena. But fight fans are foaming because ours, cops boards displaying Pacquiao not to run for public office.

The dismay, if not outrage, is understandable as websites like boxingscene.blogspot.com, which has been closely following the Pacquiao ring triumphs and his unexplainable venture into local politics.

"Boxing is a decent job and politics is a crazy thing. Pacquiao's glory will end," wrote one angry fan, commenting on an article on the Pacquiao's April ring date with Mexican featherweight champion Jorge Solis.

The worst we, blaming Pacquiao's friendship, saying they "only have ulterior themselves."

Some fans appeared to have wanted reading for the relatively unknown Solis, who carries an unblemished 22-win record to go with 15 knockouts.

One website predicted a Solis victory simply because Pacquiao—though widely considered as the best fighter in the world—is guilties of weight class—would be too busy on the campaign trail.

"Pacquiao will not train hard, thinking that his opponent is a pushover," one reader wrote. "He will focus more on getting elected mayor."

In the forum of pinoyboxing.com, one blogger suggested that Pacquiao fans sign a petition which would read: "Manny, please don't run for public office! The entire nation loves you for being our greatest boxer!"

Too late

But the appeals came too late. Pacquiao formally threw his hat into the political ring when he took his oath as a member of the Liberal Party faction of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza at City Hall last Friday.

He, however, claimed he had yet to make up his mind on whether he would run for congressman or mayor of General Santos City.

Boxing confidential's Michael Marley pointed on Friday what appeared to be Pacquiao's speech announcing his mayoral bid.

The sneak speech began: "I do not ask what you can do for Mayor Manny. Rather, look what Mayor Manny can do for you."

"So you know, I spend many of my waking hours thinking how you Miguel and I if you please bishops, and playing pool. One of my campaign promises is free beer all over Cotabato—no refreshing drug but only ice-cold pilsen," Marley wrote, ostensibly channeling from Pacquiao's widely reported extramarital activities outside the ring.

"As an inspiration to the youth of the city, I will travel far and wide after the election, giving encouragement to youngsters' lessons to luminate and to deter ging the nine-ball in the side pockets," the fictitious speech continued.

Focus on fight

Pacquiao, however, said his decision to join politics would not affect his boxing career—not even his fight against Solis scheduled in April in San Antonio, Texas.

Atienza said he advised Pacquiao, an adopted son of the city of Manila, to concentrate on his coming bout with Solis.

"I told him that after his fight, he will have a month in campaign," the mayor added. "Anyway, he's a national figure, the people already know him."

Atienza said he advised Pacquiao "to continue in prayer for guidance and discernment."

"He is a very prayerful person and I'm sure he will follow whatever the Lord will tell him to do," he said.

Boxer forever

Pacquiao had earlier expressed his intention to run under the Kilusang ng Maharyang Pilipino (Lakas)-Christian Muslim Democrat-Arroyo's party, but changed his mind at the last minute.

"Bako siguro ng mga tao na si Manny ang mag-mayor sa akin na lumaki kong kasunod ako at kanya. Dyaple ang ibang mga kandidato," Pacquiao told in an interview over GMA-7's "24 Oras."

He stressed that he would stay with the sport which has given him fame and fortune. "Hindi ko mahahalinhinan ang pagbo-boxing ko will never forget boxing."

Athletes' party-list

Other athletes have chosen their turn in the political ring.

Leaders of the Pinoy sa Bayanang Atleta, including former Philippine Basketball Association players Chris Bellado, Ronald Magtalas, Terry Saldaña and Marwin Cuenco, filed their manifestation to participate in the election as a party-list group.

Their nomination for a seat in the House of Representatives includes former PBA players Alvin Bautista and Jerry Codiñera.

The group's spokesperson, Orly Castelo, said the group was also awarding Pacquiao to be one of their nominees.

This was before the group found out that Pacquiao had been sworn in as a member of the Atienza-led Liberal Party forces.

No bench-warmers

Castelo said the group, if it wins a seat in the House, would be the voice of the athletes who are often neglected by the government.

"We want athletes to have direct representation in Congress so they can speak for themselves and needs would not have to pass through committees and various sports bodies," he said.

Aside from proper compensation and benefits for the athletes, Castelo said the group would also push for the passing up of a hospital for athletes that would give them a 20-percent discount on their medicines.

PACQUIAO: Congressman or governor?

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Chinoy group helping Sino fishers

A [illegible] Philippines community organization has come to the defense of a group of 29 Chinese fishermen who have been detained in town for alleged illegal fishing in Philippine waters.

The Tulay Foundation has provided at least two Filipino lawyers for the Hong Kong-based [illegible] group led by the Capt. Kwok Tai Fuy, in the criminal case lodged before the Puerto Princesa Regional Trial Court on Palawan.

"We do this for them (Chinese) in the same way we provide legal assistance to Filipino workers detained in mainland China, Hong Kong or Taiwan," said Ramon Potolin, the foundation's legal counsel who serves as the Manila-based lawyer of the accused fishermen.

Potolin said Tulay had tapped lawyer Atty. Jed Wamar to be his [illegible] counsel based in Palawan.

The Chinese fishermen have each posted P50,000 bail in connection with the charges filed by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources which accused them of illegal fishing in Philippine waters on Oct. 27 last year.

They were intercepted by elements of the BFAR and the Philippine Coast Guard allegedly after their vessel crossed into the Philippine waters 31.2 nautical miles southeast of Mangsee Island, Balabac, Palawan, along the country's maritime border with Malaysia.

In a joint conference last week, Potolin presented two of the fishermen—Captain Hwok and crew member Liu Fu Tong—who appeared. The arresting party of eleven subordinate personnel were from their boat, demanding in six engines and using up to fuel.

During the conference, Potolin also presented a purported "expert witness," Capt. Rodolfo Pelampalos who would help prove...with maps and navigational calculations—that the Chinese fishermen were in Malaysian and not in Philippine territory when they were intercepted. With Correspondent [illegible] area.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Ransom

A RANSOM BY ANY OTHER NAME WOULD SMELL as stinky-sweet. The unmistakable and overpowering stench of forced payments wafted out of the Moro National Liberation Front camp in Panamao, Sulu the other week, when the peace mission led by Rep. Gen. Ben Dolorfino (since promoted to two-star) was released from detention after the national government met the MNLF's two demands.

EDITORIAL

The first was a commitment to a definite schedule for a tripartite meeting between the government, the MNLF and the Organization of Islamic Conference. The second was the funding over of P450,000 in cash, ostensibly as financial assistance to the families of MNLF members mistakenly killed by the military.

We do not have anything against the principle of reasonable compensation for victims of misencounters, especially when it forms part of a whole package of confidence-building measures to benefit the peace process. But we wonder whether the circumstances of the peace mission's detention do not add up to another misencounter in this any way to build confidence?

The MNLF has, of course, denied that the cash was a ransom payment, as indeed does the unscheduled overnight sleep-over of the peace mission in Panamao was an abduction. "That is totally false, totally untrue information that General Dolorfino and his group [are being] held captive by the MNLF. That is totally false," MNLF spokesman Abdurahman Jumaoil said. Dolorfino initially followed the same script while he was inside the MNLF camp, telling ABS-CBN, for example, that he was no hostage. "I'm OK. I'm not being held captive. We are treated as guests, my guards are not being disarmed."

He has since fine-tuned his answers. Speaking in reporters' line Tuesday, outside the Commission on Appointments hearing, Dolorfino said: "In the strictest sense, we were [held] hostage because we were prevented from leaving. But there are other elements who say that we had [only] been hosted, since we were not disarmed, allowed to use our cell phones, and allowed to roam the camp." [The lifetime general did not say he was himself one of those "other elements."]

Like Dolorfino, the Arroyo administration has also found a nuanced position on the minister's forced stay. Initially, Malacañang officials denied that there was in fact any hostage-taking. Now the Palace has determined that the best course of action is to shift the burden to the OIC, by asking the influential bloc to investigate the incident. "All these things will be brought to the attention of the OIC," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita told reporters last week.

We do not share the idea of those who see the lull down as proof that there is no organizing with Muslims. The MNLF famously entered into a peace agreement with the government in 1996. By and large, that agreement has held, although a number of those who remain with the MNLF harbor a frustration and a sense of resentment over the lack of progress in parts of Muslim Mindanao. They (and their brothers in the Moro Islamic Liberation Front) should direct their frustration at MNLF founder and former Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao governor Nur Misuari, who bears much of the responsibility for the current disappointing state of affairs. But many other Moro leaders have proven themselves more than deserving of trust.

We also do not share the notion that Dolorfino, a Muslim convert with close ties to many Islamic communities, has compromised himself and should therefore be relieved of his responsibilities in the peace process. He remains an asset in the pursuit of dialogue, without which no ceasefire, no peace agreement, can turn into a lasting settlement.

But we agree with the view that the P450,000-payment amounts to a ransom. What else would you call a payment made under duress, a payment used as a necessary condition for setting a person for 21 persons, in the case of the peace mission? Finally free?

The payment undermines confidence in the remnant MNLF as a trustworthy partner in the peace process; the circumstances that led to it are a throwback to the dark days when only guns, and the ever-present threat to use them, ruled being—immorally, wrongly—two sides together.

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Our ill-starred Senate

SEPARATE OPINION

Ingrid A. Cruz

SUSAN BOYLE IS A TRULY ADMIRABLE LADY. She is not only a beautiful serious fan, unlike most of her peers in the entertainment industry who have blemished their careers with serious incomplete and scandalous affairs, she was a faithful and devoted wife to Fernando Poe Jr.

After her husband's untimely death from a stroke probably caused by his decline in the last presidential election as a result of massive poll irregularities, she has been keeping his memory alive not only in her hearts but among his millions of movie fans and political supporters. They are in her a candidate more revered and modest successor to their departed idol.

With her reputation and winning personality and—always, let us not forget, her loveliness...Susan Roces would be a shoo-in in any election. Some are already seriously suggesting that she run for the presidency of the Philippines that her late husband unsuccessfully sought in 2004. But 2010 is too far ahead and we may not even have a presidential system by that time. So they have immediately and early plans for her today.

In preparation for that higher office, her well-meaning supporters are prepping a political career for her: like many of her associates in show business. For starters, they suggested that she run this May for the Senate as a logical stepping stone to Malacañang three years from now. Not only her close friends and admirers did this. Professional politicians also urged her to run, lest her illustrious matron-like name would add prestige and popularity to their parties and make them win with her.

The circumspect Susan was not persuaded. The temptations of public office do not attract her. The opposition that organized and supported FPJ's campaign in 2004 and whose many of her own friends are ensconced allowed so many here in to surprise, not state, but she generously declined. With so many other segments crumbling for their inclusion, she was not even flattered or impressed. Politics may be excited for many people but not for her.

I cannot quote her directly because I do not read minds very often and, but I remain here the pot of it. Her real thanks but no thanks, probably because she felt she was better off in non-ordinary misery, a happy wife before, and a still popular actress. Talents differ, said the squirrel to the mountain, as she might also have said to her fellow entertainers. Many of them will disagree.

The present list of candidates for the Senate this year is dismaying. That chamber already has three scions of questionable competence and presumptuousness. Due to a possible hometown like a pukaboh cowboy from the canyons of Pampanga, another recently starred in a local movie where he should have attended to his legislative duties, and the third enters the United Nations not to accept Ambassador Hilarion Davide because he had not yet been confirmed by our Commission on Appointments. The diplomats in that combo of body count be laughing at him and at us too, supposing we are like him.

And the administration is no less selective either. It has included in its "senior" cyber miner of the same celluloid heroes to further deepen the Upper House that used to be the senior legislative body in the country. There are enough reasons to be lower House and yet they are still threatening to add to the roll a will in the Senate where once and distinguished statesmen of our race, reportedly, she were leading stars from the box office seeking election to public office by their traveling fans are Robert Gomez, Eduardo Manzano and Cesar Montano.

Winston Churchill once asked: "Can a nation remain healthy, can all nations show respect, in a world where brightest stars are film stars?" He might have been talking of our stars except that they are far from "brightest."

Add to them the alleged artillery in the opposition—the "balato bolsa," a toilet connection, a twice failed mayoralty aspirant relying on his fathers' name to win a nation wide election. They add some others of like uncertainty are pondering the legitimate credentials of Loren Legarda, Francis Escudero and Juan Ponce Enrile (also mentioned?) Senators Jaby Arroyo, Manuel Villar, Francis Pangilinan and Ralph Recto. And also Sonia Soto?

Back in Susan Roces, I applaud her for her level headedness and wish her the best in her quiet private life. Joining the theater would have only tarnished her respected and admired name.

Elusive dreams and schemes

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A MAN WHO searched for gold all his life. He one precious and devotion was to accumulate more and more gold as he walked on, sacrificing his health, his family, his friends, his values, and even his very soul for precious, precious gold. When he died, St. Peter showed him the mansion he would be living, all paved with gold with the words: "That which you considered valuable and precious on earth is just asphalt here."

* * *

Do you consider yourself as blessed and lucky because you are rich, and fulfilled and famous, and enjoying life to the max? Maybe you are, but maybe not...after all, in today's Gospel (Lk 6:17, 20-26) Jesus reminds us through the "Beatitudes" that you who enjoy worldly blessings now should be careful. You should not forget eternity, and you should not forget that you have a soul. And so, there is God who cares it all.

* * *

It is so easy to be misled and tricked by the evil one in this world. Try this puzzle: Henry's mother has five children, namely: 1) Chacha, 2) Cheche, 3) _____, 4) Chechi, 5) Chuchu. Who is the third? (Chichi, right? Wrong. Henry of course. Let us all be vigilant as we are so fallible all the more and pleasures of this world. Make sure that you do not spend your whole life pursuing elusive dreams and schemes that are worthless and useless in the end.

* * *

What a comfort to hear that those who suffer and mock for righteousness will have their reward, and that no good deed is left unnoticed. In our passionate culture, where lines and threats go unpunished, and where the meanest can do just about anything and everything they want, it is so consoling to hear that God is on the side of the righteous, the poor and the oppressed. Yes, the evildoers will be exposed. Glory is not forever in this world. Goodness will triumph. True justice will be served. Amen!

* * *

Today is the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. Today is also World Day for the Sick. Only God knows what sick people go through. It's a lonely and, often, a scary road, but the assurance is that God is on the road, every step of the way. It's a lonely but not a useless road because it is a road that leads to purification and salvation not only for the sick person but for his/her loved ones as well. It is "the road less traveled," but it is the road that can make all the difference in one's life.

* * *

We take time today to thank all the people who are involved our unity in the healing of, but also in the coming for, the sick. I salute the doctors who are very good in their profession. More so, I salute the doctors who see their profession as a vocation, and who see their efforts as God's instruments of healing, and thus allow their hands to be used for true, and not always for a fee.

* * *

Let the "Beatitudes" remind us one that the most simple, and even the hidden, acts of goodness will be rewarded. Let us thank God today for the caregivers, the prayer warriors, and the caring relatives and friends of the sick. The road is neither that lonely nor scary if there are fellow travelers on the road. There is always that lonely stretch which you and I have to travel all alone, but it is good to know that there are people who still always

to close to close us on.

* * *

Is to global warming. Yet in "future warming"? Happy Valentine's Day, everyone! Make sure that you still have a heart, and that matters of the heart still matter to you. That's what the "Beatitudes" is all about. Make sure that in your heart are the attitudes of the Kingdom of God over the attitudes of this world. What do you carry in your heart? Please make sure you are not just carrying asphalt.

* * *

Inviting you all to "HEARTBURN," a concert put up by the wives of our ex-SBO seminarians for the benefit of our Filipino seminarians overseas, and for our archdiocesan seminarians. Join us on Feb. 16, Friday 7 p.m., at Christ the King Mission Seminary, 1181 E. Rodriguez Jr. Blvd., Quezon City. The Sandwich, Rain, Sugarfree, Silent Sanctuary, Itchyworms, with Nonda and Sweet's will be there to give us their heartwarming and "heartbreaking" songs. Tickets are available at the Seminary Information Office and at the Mission Office, (920) 6146.

* * *

Allowing a few minutes every day to reflect on our daily activities enlightens our mind. Text ON MOMENTS to 2366 for Globe/Tm or 0916 for Smart, to receive moments of reflection on your mobile phone. God bless you. Wants Mary bless you!

* * *

Starting Feb. 16, 2007, you can send SMS Mass Cards (for the deceased and the living) to your relatives and friends through CBCP Express Outlets within Metro Manila and Luzon. Soon, it will be available nationwide.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help me not to live a life in pursuit of elusive dreams and schemes which will be useless and worthless in the end. Amen.

Visionary leadership by example

WITH DUE RESPECT

Antonio V. Pangalangan

ORD, OF THE RISING SUN OF MY LIFE, IS MY journey from handing newspapers in the backstreets of Sampaloc, Manila to becoming the president of the most widely read newspaper in the country. Now, after more than 11 years in the Supreme Court, I am happy to be invited back to the business, this time as a column writer.

ADEC 2007. Forty years for the late same years, the Asian Development Bank gathers 1% of the country's most outstanding student leaders. The aim is "to foster their leadership potential and to inspire them to live lives of integrity and worth for the good of the country."

This year, last week, on Feb. 7-9, the Ayala Young Leaders Congress was held in Tagaytay on the theme "Leading in Challenging Times." That Ayala generally places almost impossible to this project is shown by the attendance of all the big-shouldered names in Philippine business. Among Ayalistas: Fabian de Ayala and Fernando Zobel de Ayala.

As keynote speaker, I proposed right off that every leader and every organization, big or small, must have a clear idea of what they ultimately want to accomplish. And of the specific ways to achieve the declared goals.

If one is embarking on a journey, one must have—prior to departure—a pre-selected destination, and a specific mode of how to get there. Absent a destination, one can't choose among modes of transportation over the other and/or routes, and the specific route to reach it. So must every leader have a vision mission.

I believe a vision statement must be specific and measurable, not a mere collection of motherhood principles. It must also include core values that the person or organization stands for. Equally important, it must be achievable within a definite period.

Most importantly, the leader commits to specific goals, values, methods and timetables. And the followers have general directions to guide them through. The leader's role is to inspire and motivate the followers to work unceasingly, to the above their given limitations, to stand beyond themselves, and to achieve collectively their lofty and dreams and highest aspirations.

Senator Pimentel once said that "wars may be fought with weapons but they are won by soldiers. It is the spirit of the men who follow and of the man who leads that gains victory." This is true not only in the military battlefield but in all human endeavors.

The business and GMA7. I think the business same, now a short period of time, the largest circulation daily simply because it has a clear vision: "to be the dominant, most respected and influential Philippine media organization for Filipinos here and abroad." This vision is complemented by its "mission" of being "a world-class generator of news and information." The business consistently upholds its core values of excellence, integrity, editorial independence, responsibility, teamwork and dynamism.

GMA Network's vision is likewise unmistakable: "We are the most respected, most trusted and most loved broadcast industry and the driving force in the Philippine broadcast industry and the recognized media innovator and pacesetter in Asia. We are the Filipinos' favorite network. We are the advertisers' preferred partner. We are the employers of choice in our industry. We provide the best return to our shareholders. We are a key partner in promoting the love in the Filipino." GMA7's core values are plain: "God above all."

The leaders (Manny Pinto of the business and Gilberto Duavit of GMA7) had one thing in common: mission statements and, together with their people, doggedly pursued them into fruition. That it sets, after retiring from the jobs late, I am hesitant to hear who have asked to come GMA7.

Leading by example. On his first day in office, the new-elect executive of a huge Philippine company asked how many cars were assigned to him at first. He was stunned to learn that there were more than four dozens. He retained only one and ordered the immediate sale of the remainder.

On his second day, an assistant invited his office with a big briefcase full of cash which, he was told, was his personal share of the commissions for the advertisements placed by his company in several media outlets. He ordered the assistant to deposit them all to the company's bank account.

On his third day, he noticed that many of the executives under him arrived in their offices only around 10:00 a.m. He then issued a memorandum to the managing bodies of his subsidiaries, he asked his secretary to make arrangements to bring him to office at 9 a.m. daily.

PLDT. In three early three days, Manuel V. Pangilinan has picked the right leaders for the positions of executive managers, managers in many matters and on-time office arrival. After a few years of leadership by example, the market worth of PLDT multiplied tenfold, and its corporate culture changed for the better.

There are many ways to lead: by delivering motivational speeches, by opening an issue first, by disposing patronage and by belonging to a dominant. It helps to be a great orator and a charismatic leader. But the best leaders lead by example. I have three stars: Dureiwa, noble exposure, good looks, power, acumen, passion, opportunity and good fate propelled many people to center stage but have failed to bring the desired results.

Leadership by example. Immediately pursuing a clear vision, mission and core values are an essential beginning. However, leading by example is the best, if not the only way to accomplish the vision/mission.

Using extraordinary leadership by example, the Icons, GMA7 and PLDT climbed to the top. In, can any organization. The Philippines can! Let the readers be the judge.

Comments are welcome at <AuthorInquiries@inquirer.com.ph>

Broken smiles

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

JAGNA, BOHOL—OUR GUIDE WELCOMES US TO JAGNA, and tells us in unforgiving tone it's not a very big town. We go straight to the Jagna Municipal Hospital, where the hallways are lined with folding beds, and mothers in white sleeping babies. I'm handed a pile of blue materials: doctor's gown, hair mask, shoe coverings, and a wad of cloudy blue gauze to wear like a shower cap.

In the nursery room, anesthesiologist Lito Tamparlin cuffs to an unconscious baby girl with cupid eyes for newly-stitched lip. His doctor's coat is printed with male illustrations, each labeled with Japanese and English. Hara (salmon rolls). Shi-mee (bukkake). Ho (shrimp).

The girl in his arms was born with a harelip. Her mother stands by the bed, a small, confronted woman clutching a plastic bag in both hands. Dr. Lito asks her if have-lips run in the family. She shakes her head. It's a mutation, he explains. She had skipped when she was pregnant. It was explanation that she must have repressed again and again over the last 18 years. It is the reasoning of many of the mothers who come to Operation Smile, along with tales of voodoo and spirits and family curses. In the Philippines, one in every 600 is born with a cleft, a ration is higher than those that developed world. Although the predisposition is mainly genetic, it is triggered by malnutrition during a woman's pregnancy. Operation Smile, which began in the Philippines, offers reconstructive surgery to children suffering from the physical and emotional distress caused by facial deformities. Teams operate on 24 to 30 children in all over the world, with close to 60 teams, nurses, speech therapists and anesthesiologists giving services for free.

I meet Jessman in the hallway, right outside the surgery. Two years and three months old, he sits at the crook of his father's arm, one fist first curled around his father's short collar. I offer his picture. He stares at the camera soberly, and at the flash, the big brown eyes blink, and the tiny brows come together as he glares in outrage.

Jessman was born with an incomplete cleft lip. There is a gap on his upper lip, as if someone had pinched his lip apart and folded back the edges. His is a mild case, complete clefts extend all the way to the nose, and in some cases appear on both sides of a lip. Jessman's father, Rolito Ejes Jr., is a company driver. He with Shiena is 29 years old, and stands beside her grinning husband. I ask her how she feels, and she nudges shakily. The sign her head. "Naijan," she says. She repeats herself, louder. Jessman wanders in for her. Nalipay. Ei. Nabalibad. Nalipay. Ei. Nabalibad. I look at her husband. He isn't worried at all, and something about his smile reminds me of Manny Pacquiao at the end of the Pacquiao-Morales fight.

The shrinking boy is carried into the surgery, and Dr. Rodel, the anesthesiologist, puts him to sleep. Dr. Mark, the plastic surgeon, sits at the head of the table, and turns the lights to prevent bleeding, then inks our measurements on Jessman's upper lip. He says this is the most important part of the whole process.

"Sir," Dr. Mark announces to the anesthesiologist. "Can long."

He slices through skin, a short, curving cut. He separates muscle, and there is blood, nice veins of not red blood, despite blistering on the tiny lips to spite of the camera. Dr. Mark uses to bury out the blood, his pulls up the upper lip, and cuts away the stains. My stomach rolls, and I think. There's the trouble of cellophane, and chocolate is pressed into my face. I look away, and look back. It is done. It is done. I eat the chocolate. I sit down. I breathe. And then the nursing begins, and I stand up to look. The two sides of Jessman's upper lip are drawn together and sewn, patchpieces finally coming together.

Rock music is piped into the room from an MP4 player in the corner. Dr. Rodel and Dr. Mark sway to the rock and metal music. The longer the day, the faster the music. Dr. Mark sews his points: love, Dr. Gerald sews and lap-bags. Dr. Rodel of the shoulders announces his preference for dance music, particularly the stick Houston record. They are in agreement on one thing: delicate operations call for Bonicelli and Josh Groban. Love, sorry, sorry or dire during liposuction requires head-banging rock.

Dr. Gerald takes over for Mark's explanations. Under his care it is pink T-shirt. "Tough guys wear Pink." He says that if the lips were sewn even one millimeter out of place, the suture would be noticeable. Most foreigners can afford numerous operations to perfect the surgery, here, because of the expense. It's a case-by-case deal. They close up. Jessman cries, and the rubber is picked up and rushed into the curve of Dr. Mark's bowtie arm.

The parents are waiting outside, and they follow us to the recovery room. Probe is no longer smiling. Shiena clutches her hands on front of her. They stay away from the bed until the drugging wears off. Dr. Rodel checks the tube, and the tanks of air, almost spents, and then bathes her face on her husband's shoulder. There are tears, and nursery smiles and near-disbelief. Probe's hugger is grin. We leave them standing by the bed, guarding their little boy.

Tonight there is drinking, and dancing, and laughing, although the doctors are sleep-deprived. Rodel tells me, in the most fatherly way possible, that I'm a candidate for liposuction. Dr. Eric, the team dentist, tells me about a mother whose daughter he fitted with an obturator, an implement to close off the hole in her palate. "Everything went fine," the 6-foot tall doctor said. "It has adjustments. Then she put the children's toys. They're like, 'Anyway, you, and then the mommy came back, holding a sick with a chicken." "He guesses solid, and then he sews. "How chicken? How chicken?" "Doctor, thank you very much."

Dr. Mark tells me who he started working with Operation Smile. He was in Batangas during a mission, and there was a child with a cleft. He was interested, and ordered to one of the committees. The following day, when he took out the bandage, the mother was crying, backing sales, so he panicked. The mother told him her story. Her oldest son had a cleft lip, and was already 17. They didn't have the money to even go to a mission site, so he never got operated on. He went to Dr. Mark's office, and he was told that he could do him, and he dropped out. Eventually he refused to leave the house.

"Our patient was a girl, Imagine, through that mission we were able to change the path of that girl. She didn't have to go through what her brother did." Dr. Mark was 28 years old then, he's in his late 40s now. "That's when I decided to see what I was going to do."

In two weeks, Jessman's sutures will disappear. He is a beautiful boy, and I'm guessing his smile will be as bright as his father's.

For comments, just see: Hel 333831 name, surname, message then send to 2948 for Globe/Touch and 2948 for Smart. E-mail or mail inquirer@gmail.com

Have we been eating GE rice?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

LAST YEAR, THE RICE-EATING, RICE-GROWING world—which counts over 100 rice-growing countries—ate around 400 million tons of rice—with China as the biggest rice-eater and rice-producer, followed by India as the biggest rice-eater and rice-producer, followed by India as the biggest rice-eater and rice-producer, followed by India

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to talktown@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Coping with global warming (2)

THE RELEASE ON FEB. 5 OF A UN REPORT SAYING THAT GLOBAL warming was "very likely" caused by mankind and that climate change would continue for centuries to come drove home the point that strong action should be taken to cushion the impact of a warmer world.

A day after the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued the report, 45 countries joined France in calling for a new body to slow global warming.

US scientists said the long-term outlook for global warming might be more serious than the IPCC foresaw because new evidence of accelerated melting of glaciers in Greenland and the Antarctic came too late to be included in the report. Melting glaciers contribute to rising sea levels. Glaciers reflect heat from the sun.

Taking the opposite tack is a lobby group funded by one of the world's largest oil companies. The Guardian UK reported that the American Enterprise Institute, an ExxonMobil-funded think tank with close links to the Bush administration, offered scientists and economists $10,000 each to undermine the IPCC report.

Climate scientists said the move was an attempt to cast doubt over the "overwhelming scientific evidence" on global warming.

Expect wilder weather in years to come

THERE IS NOW A HIGHER CONFIDENCE IN projected patterns of warming and other regional-scale features, including changes in wind patterns, precipitation, and some aspects of extremes such as ice.

- Projected warming in the 21st century shows seasonally independent geographical patterns similar to those observed over the past several decades. Warming is expected to be greatest over land and at most high northern latitudes, and least over the Southern Ocean and parts of the North Atlantic ocean (See Figure 5).

- Snow cover is projected to contract. Widespread decreases in snow depth are projected. Over many permafrost regions.

- Sea ice is projected to shrink in both the Arctic and Antarctic under all scenarios of the IPCC Special Report on Emissions Scenarios (2000) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change). In some projections, Arctic late-summer sea ice disappears almost entirely by the latter part of the 21st century.

- It is very likely that hot extremes, heat waves, and heavy precipitation events will continue to become more frequent.

- Based on a range of models, it is likely that future tropical cyclones (typhoons and hurricanes) will become more intense, with larger peak wind speeds and more heavy precipitation associated with ongoing increases in tropical sea surface temperatures. There is less confidence in projections of a global decrease in numbers of tropical cyclones. The apparent increase in the proportion of very intense storms since 1970 in some regions is much larger than simulated by current models for that period.

- Extra-tropical storm tracks are projected to move poleward, with consequent changes in wind, precipitation and temperature patterns, continuing the broad pattern of observed trends over the last half century.

- Since the Third Assessment Report there is no improving understanding of projected patterns of precipitation. Increases in the amount of precipitation are very likely in high latitudes, while decreases are likely in most subtropical land regions (by as much as about 20 percent in the A2 scenario in 2100), continuing observed patterns in recent trends.

- Based on current model simulations, it is very likely that the meridional overturning circulation (MOC) of the Atlantic Ocean will slow down during the 21st century. The model-mean average reduction by 2100 in 25 percent (range from zero to about 50 percent) for SRES (Special Report on Emissions Scenarios) A1B. Temperatures in the Atlantic region are projected to increase despite such changes due to the much larger warming associated with projected increases of greenhouse gases. It is very unlikely that the MOC will undergo a large abrupt transition during the 21st century. Longer-term changes in the MOC cannot be assessed with confidence.

(Excerpts from the IPCC Report)

Changes in greenhouse gases

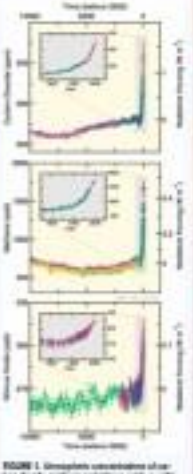

FIGURE 1. Atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide over the last 10,000 years (large panels) and since 1750 (inset panels). Measurements are shown from ice cores (Antarctic and Greenland) (with different colors for different studies) and atmospheric samples (red lines). The corresponding radiative forcings are shown on the right-hand axes of the large panels. Radiative forcing is a measure of the influence that a factor has in altering the balance of incoming and outgoing energy in the Earth-atmosphere system and is an index of the importance of the factor as a potential climate change mechanism. Positive forcing tends to warm the surface while negative forcing tends to cool it.

Emission scenarios

A1 THE A1 STORYLINE AND SCENARIO family describes a future world of very rapid economic growth, global population that peaks in mid-century and declines thereafter, and the rapid introduction of new and more efficient technologies.

Major underlying themes are convergence among regions, capacity building and increased cultural and social interactions, with a substantial reduction in regional differences in per capita income. The A1 scenario family develops into three groups that describe alternative directions of technological change in the energy system. The three A1 groups are distinguished by their technological emphasis: fossil intensive (A1FI), non-fossil energy sources (A1T), or a balance across all sources (A1B) (where balanced is defined as not relying too heavily on one particular energy source, on the assumption that similar improvement rates apply to all energy supply and end-use technologies).

A2 The A2 storyline and scenario family describes a very heterogeneous world. The underlying theme is self-reliance and preservation of local identities. Fertility patterns across regions converge very slowly, which results in continuously increasing population. Economic development is primarily regionally oriented and per capita economic growth and technological change more fragmented and slower than in other storylines.

B1 The B1 storyline and scenario family describes a convergent world with the same global population, that peaks in mid-century and declines thereafter, as in the A1 storyline, but with rapid change in economic structures toward a service and information economy, with reductions in material intensity and the introduction of clean and resource-efficient technologies. The emphasis is on global solutions to economic, social and environmental sustainability, including improved equity, but without additional climate initiatives.

B2 The B2 storyline and scenario family describes a world in which the emphasis is on local solutions to economic, social and environmental sustainability. It is a world with continuously increasing global population, at a rate lower than A2, intermediate levels of economic development, and less rapid and more diverse technological change than in the B1 and A1 storylines. While the scenario is also oriented toward environmental protection and social equity, it focuses on local and regional levels.

An illustrative scenario was chosen for each of the six scenario groups A1B, A1FI, A1T, A2, B1 and B2.

All should be considered equally sound. The SRES scenarios do not include additional climate initiatives, which means that no scenarios are included that explicitly assume implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change or the emissions targets of the Kyoto Protocol.

(IPCC)

Projections of surface temperatures

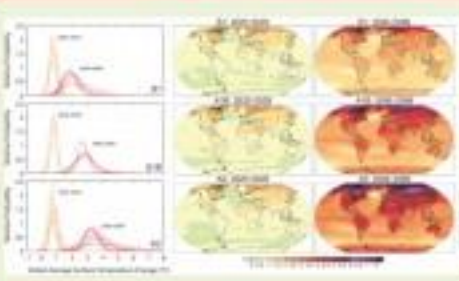

FIGURE 3. Projected surface temperature changes for the early and late 21st century relative to the period 1980–1999. The central and right panels show the Atmosphere-Ocean General Circulation Model (AOGCM) average projections for the B1 (top), A1B (middle) and A2 (bottom) SRES emissions marker scenarios during 2090–2099 relative to the period 1980–1999. (right) The left panel shows corresponding uncertainties as the estimated range of best-estimate projections from a hierarchy of AOGCMs for the same scenario. Some models project results only for a subset of the SRES scenarios, or for various model versions. Therefore the differences between the ranges of scores shown in the left-hand panels is due in part to differences in the availability of results.

Changes in temperature, sea level, northern snow cover

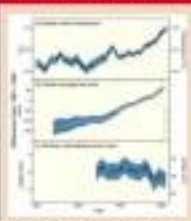

FIGURE 2. Observed changes in (a) global average surface temperature, (b) global average sea level rise from tide gauge (blue) and satellite (red) data, and (c) Northern Hemisphere snow cover for March–April.

All changes are relative to corresponding averages for the period 1961–1990. Smoothed curves represent decadal averaged values while circles show yearly values.

The shaded areas are the uncertainty intervals estimated from comprehensive analyses of known uncertainties (a and b) and from the time series (c).

Global and continental temperature change

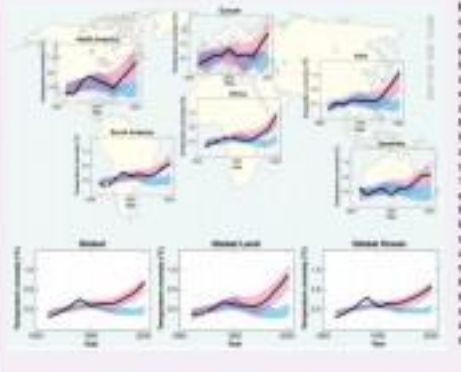

FIGURE 4. Comparison of observed continental- and global-scale changes in surface temperature with results simulated by climate models using natural and anthropogenic (caused by man) forcings. Decadal averages of observations are shown for the period 1906–2005 (black line) plotted against the center of the decade and relative to the corresponding average for 1901–1950. Lines are dashed where spatial coverage is less than 50 percent. Blue-shaded bands show the 5–95 percent range for 19 simulations from 5 climate models using only the natural forcings due to solar activity and volcanoes. Red-shaded bands show the 5–95 percent range for 58 simulations from 14 climate models using both natural and anthropogenic forcings.

Lies and Dirty Tricks Don't Work

THE TRUTH IS OUT

German Bank's certification disproves Cayetano's false accusations and malicious lies.

_based on the Bank's records covering the past ten (10) years from the date of this letter we confirm that during this ten-year period Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Jose Miguel T. Arroyo, Ignacio T. Arroyo, Juan Miguel Macapagal Arroyo, Diosdado Macapagal Arroyo, and Lourdes Evangeline Macapagal Arroyo, have *never* had any account with the Bank, or any of its branches world-wide, in their names, singly, or in any combination among themselves.

3. We confirm that in compliance with applicable law, the Bank employs all know-your-customer verification measures as required thereunder. In particular, the Bank and any of its branches around the world employs rigid verification procedures to ensure that its services and facilities are not utilized for purposes of circumventing international and domestic money-laundering statutes.

House Ethics Committee finds Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano GUILTY of disorderly behavior and improper conduct and overwhelmingly recommends for his 45-day suspension.

RESOLUTION
CONDEMNING THE ACTS OF HONORABLE ALAN PETER S. CAYETANO, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LONE DISTRICT OF TAGUIG/PATEROS, FOR MAKING WITHOUT BASIS IN TRUTH AND IN FACT, SCURRILOUS, MALICIOUS, RECKLESS AND IRRESPONSIBLE CHARGES
AND IMPOSING THE PENALTY OF SUSPENSION OF FORTY FIVE (45) DAYS"

RESOLVED by the House of Representatives, To approve as it hereby approves, the Committee's findings, conclusions and recommendations in Committee Report No. 2359, and that Representative Alan Peter S. Cayetano, be, as he is hereby, declared guilty of disorderly behavior and Improper Conduct, for making without basis in truth and in fact, scurrilous, malicious, reckless and irresponsible charges against the First Family

Statement of First Gentleman Atty. Mike Arroyo

"The overwhelming condemnation of his peers, who called for his suspension for 45 days, is our vindication after the vicious, malicious and unfounded smear campaign that he waged against my family and myself..."

"We are grateful to our friends and the many Filipinos who expressed support for our fight for vindication and justice. To them, I pledge that we will always do what is right, and stand against those, like Rep. Cayetano, who only wish to impede our nation's progress for the sake of their selfish ambition and hunger for power."

A clear VINDICATION for the First Gentleman and the Arroyo Family

Paid for by Friends of FG

Across the NATION

Voters urged: Unmask pols in 'jueteng'

Politics gets in way of medical mission

LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN—FOLLOWING THE ABORTIVE attempt to hold a medical mission on Feb. 15 in Barangay Pelong in Bugallon, she said Bayer Klorido Orduña approved the project, so she went to see the village chief of Pelong.

"But [the official] refused to host the project, saying it was election time and that ministers should not be conducted at this time," Estuyan said.

The chief of another village, Magtaking, also refused to host the project and cited the same reason, she said.

The Kabengan or barangay is a regular program of the provincial government that started in 1999.

Gov. Victor Agbayani's wife, Jinnie Louise, a pediatrician, heads the medical team.

The team goes around the different towns in Pangasinan and serves several villages every mission.

"The very first mission in 2000 was conducted in Barangay Bolong, so I wonder why the village heads are refusing it this time," Estuyan said.

Orduña, in a telephone interview, said the villagers refused to allow the mission because they were supporting Pangasinan Rep. Amado Espino Jr., who is running for governor under the Nacionalista People's Coalition and Kampi in the May 14 elections.

Jinnie Louise Agbayani may face off with Espino because she is among the candidates being considered by Lakas-CMD to run for governor.

Orduña said politics was the real reason behind the refusal of village heads to host the medical mission.

"They should understand that the congressman [Espino] attends every affair of the barangay heads, like their birthdays. So they are rebuking the mission headed by Agbayani," he said.

He said he tried to talk with the village heads and explain to them why they should allow the medical mission, but they were adamant. Yolanda Estrella-Pineda, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Gov't urged to stop GMO rice importation

LOS BAÑOS, LAGUNA—A NETwork of farmers and natural resources appealed to the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) of the Department of Agriculture to disapprove the country's import of genetically modified rice.

Dr. Chito Medina, board members of Magsasaka at Siyentipiko para sa Pag-unlad ng Agrikultura (Masipag), said rice should be spared from genetic modification.

He said that it is possible that the import-tainted rice of the genetic rice would endanger the health of over 84 million Filipinos.

Bayer, a German company, applied on Aug. 31, 2006 at the BPI for the direct use of LLRICE62, a type of hybrid rice which is herbicide-tolerant.

The approval of the importation is still in abeyance as the Biosafety and Technical Review Panel (BTRP) has yet to accomplish the review and evaluation of the application. Thelma Barrion, head of the BPI's BIOTECH core team, told the farmers.

She said that the BIOTECH core team would evaluate the results of the STEP study in a to-commence prior to approval of the GM products.

Medina said the commercial introduction of the genetic rice is still questionable as genetically modified organisms (GMOs) have never been subjected to rigorous testing.

"The Philippine government has been approving the importation and commercialization of genetically modified products with our reliable safety assessments," he said.

Masipag said 19 GMOs were introduced to the market.

The group said the BAItai scientific refuted the claim submitted by companies to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Medina said the USDA has deregulated LLRICE62 because the US government assumed that it was safe to consume GM products even without performing tests.

He said that in August 2006, LLRICE601 was found to have contaminated stocks of long-grain rice in the United States.

As a result, he said, Japan suspended importation of rice from the United States while the European Union is testing US rice for contamination. Nika Cathorine Cellejo, Inquirer Southern Luzon

LUCENA CITY—A CATHOLIC BISHOP IN QUEzon unveiled the revival of the illegal numbers game "jueteng" in the province and urged voters to expose local government officials who will allow its operation.

"This illegal gambling in our midst can be stopped if only President Arroyo, government law enforcers and local officials would really want to. All they have to do is just say no," Diocese of Lucena Bishop Emilio Marquez told the reporters in an interview Friday afternoon.

The head of the Catholic Church in Quezon said he would soon issue a pastoral letter to remind voters to remain vigilant against politicians who will use campaign funds from illegal sources, particularly jueteng and drugs.

"It is the people who should be more extremely vigilant, not only the priests, not only the election watchdogs. It is the collective moral obligation of every citizen not to allow the politicians to taint the sanctity of the ballots," Marquez said.

Quoting his own "sources," Marquez said the planned return of jueteng in time for the elections hurt the blessings of top government officials and police officers feasted in Camp Crame.

He mentioned the names of a certain Tony Abello and one Tony Ong, both alleged gambling lords, whom he claimed were the financiers of jueteng revival in the province.

"The bishop urged law enforcers to act on the report.

In an earlier interview, Candelaria Mayor Daniel Dominico, president of the Quezon Mayors' League, confirmed the planned return of jueteng in the province as a source of election campaign funds. He said he rejected it.

He also pointed to Abello as one of the would-be operators of jueteng.

Senior Supt. Vicente Enrajas Jr., Quezon police chief, admitted that a group of gambling financiers attempted to operate jueteng in Mulanay on Thursday.

"But as soon as my intelligence operatives confronted the information, I immediately ordered the town police chief to stop it. I strongly warned my police official not to sleep in his job," Enrajas said over the phone.

But desperate for cash for their elections campaign logistics, an undercover member of Quezon local executives reportedly met with Abello in a classy restaurant in this city Saturday to map out plans for jueteng resumption.

The source also revealed that one Attorney Baltazar, allegedly financing for a Calauan official and one alias "Waja," alleged bagmen of a ranking police official in Camp Crame, are protecting the planned jueteng resurgences not only in Quezon, but also in Calabarzon, Bicol and some parts of Central and Southern Luzon.

"These two have been dropping the names of their bosses in forcing the police and local officials to allow the entry of jueteng," he said. The informant also identified one Molly Avalia and a certain Danny Belen as the "go-between" of government protection and jueteng operations. Delfin F. Michel Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

LAZY DAY
A vendor of candle-nuts for lupos as devotees flock to the Jaro Cathedral to time for the Jaro Fiesta. The cathedral is home to the image of the Our Lady of the Candles.

Baguio air quality getting worse

Pollution gauge gadgets see increasing particle volume

BAGUIO CITY—THE AIR QUALITY IN THE city is getting worse and proposals to withdraw ordinances that regulate traffic flow will not correct this environmental anomaly, local officials said.

Environmental advocates and experts agreed in a meeting this week that plans to withdraw a number-coding scheme to reduce the number of vehicles on Baguio streets were ominously, said Colleen Lacsamana, head of the city environment and parks management office.

Premier host local businessmen has convinced some officials to nullify the number-coding ordinance, according to acting Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr.

Some scientists have also allowed to liberalize the existing law by widening the criteria for exempting vehicles from the regulations.

Lacsamana said the latest air quality readings issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources indicated that particulate matter coming from vehicle emissions in downtown Baguio had exceeded last year's average by 20 percent.

Bad numbers

The year 2006 posted an improvement in air quality when air quality monitors posted 144 micrograms per cubic meter logged of total suspended particles (TSP). TSP measures the pollutants in the air.

The city averages between 101 ug/m and 189 ug/m, but the year opened with downtown Baguio's TSP exceeding 200 ug/m, said Rolando Reyna, a DENR Cordillera air quality expert.

Lacsamana said the number coding helped keep down vehicular volume by 20 percent, which enabled the city to keep pollution down.

Conditions worsened on Friday because of a fire that spread at the city dump site in Barangay Irisan, which pushed readings to 201 ug/m. The tolerable ceiling posted for Baguio is 230 ug/m.

Reyes attributed the increase in the pollution reading to pollutants emitted from the fire at the dump and which were transmitted to downtown Baguio area by wind.

The fire was the second in 16 the Irisan dump in the last two years. The first fire took days before it was contained, and after the city council increased funding for fire-fighting equipment.

City personnel filled up the crevices in the dump to reduce the oxygen that fed the fire that started underneath the pile of garbage. Hector Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

THE NEW air quality monitoring machine installed last year on the intersection of Session Road and Magsaysay Avenue has detected the worsening pollution in Baguio.

INQUIRER Mindanao

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Website: www.inquirermindanao.com
Editor Jun Bandayrel
Davao City/ Nina R. Alvarado

'Lumad' folk star in multi-awarded film by young Dabawenyo

By Jeffry M. Tupas
Davao City

JULIETA MARIVELES-Baza beamed as she clutched a bouquet of fresh calla lilies handed to her by a friend during the premier of the film "Sug Huling Ilahyan" at the Gaisano Mall in Davao City on Feb. 2.

She later giggled and said she refused to lead the prayer because "not fighters show pose".

Baza is not a rebel in real life but she played the part in the film. Perhaps her refusal indicated that she has not totally detached herself from the character that she played.

Her role also the main reason Baza have said that generally rural areas in Mindanao are still very much like the village of Bubli, which means life, alive, or love.

Sitting quietly behind her was the film's multi-awarded people's director, Rhastmay "Manay" Dumosmos, a Manobo-Higaonon from the village of Napalico in Arakan Valley Municipality.

At least 30 other characters, all of them non-actors from Arakan and Matilog District in Davao City, could not help but chuckle every time they saw themselves on the screen.

Happy

The Matigsalog teller is one of the featured groups in ensemble cast and several Manobans appear, particularly in the provinces of Bukidnon and South Cotabato.

Manay, a Matigsalog-Manobo who has never graduated, said she was happy when the first scene of the film, which was written and directed by Davao-born filmmaker Shamal Anthony Tuncliff.

"I cannot say anything but shout the film... I am very happy with what I saw," said Manay.

Before the film was shoots, the 26-year-old Sanchez had to stand before his fellow Dabawenyos to **some them about his parent's language and subject.**

"I have to warn you that this film doesn't will involve the usual way This is not a film where in the end you will fall in love with **the leading characters... you will** not also get scared from like you did with 'Shy Aquino,'" Sanchez said.

Different

"This is something different and I hope you will like it. I just have to warn you that this film contains a new line of cinematic language. I hope it will reach you," added Sanchez who admitted of having told some of his friends to bring along with them **cleanser** (bleach).

But Sanchez might have underestimated the Davao audiences, when the more than two hours, stayed and endured the long wait just to get onto the lead star, Manay.

Sanchez later said he was excited about how people would react to his film.

"I am skeptical about how Dabawenyos would take 'Huling Ilahyan.' The film is not likeable Ottawan, which is charming and pleasant. It doesn't contain comedic, which the commercial audience demands and it is not a mu-

sical film," Sanchez said.

This apprehension, he admitted, it apparently rooted in the fact that the Philippines has not progressed when it comes to filmmaking compared to other countries like Horizon and Thailand.

"We haven't progressed in our cinematic language. Experimenting and conception of new cinematic language remains to be a big problem for some filmmakers because of the demand of the audience, which can be blamed on the audience's consciousness and appreciation," he said.

The "Huling Ilahyan," Sanchez said, is a product of a study and explorations of "new semantics," which is far from what is demanded by the audience.

Events

The story, he said, is something very recent and Filipino.

The film's messages and their subtexts were presented in vast, out ways as the audience could appreciate what it is all about.

"The film appeals to different kinds of sensibilities. There will be tired or reduced by watching it because of the uncapped resources, which were presented here. And the effect could be very selective, Sanchez said.

Ang Huling Ilahyan ng Bubli rally about the intertwining lives of people living in Bubli. The most prominent of whom is Manay, the Ilahyan strangely affected with migraine.

Manay, who is supposed to be a powerful figure in the community, was often stalked by a menacing and the object of the military's lack of grasp and sensitivity to culture and gender.

Manay abhorred the presence of the military in the area and expressed this through her songs and soliloquy. The said the military only expressed conflict in the village and should be sent out of their place.

Another significant character was Gigi (played by Harol, a cadding community guerrilla, who while fighting the communist revolution, was also a veteran to the second session between two of her young male comrades and the tragedy that befell the lovers.

Performance

Manay's and Gigi's lives evolved around a series of realities shadowed by the surreal presence of significant characters that created a baffling effect.

Both Manay and Gigi gave convincing performances. In the case of Manay, how can she not be convincing when she's playing herself?

Baired PG 13 by the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB), the film, produced by ABS-CBN, has won for Sanchez the Best Director award in the Cinema One Originals 2006. The body judged the film as best picture, best screenplay and the special jury citation for innovative acting.

The Academy of Movie Magic (a Gawad Tanglaw also named Sanchez best director and the movie, best picture to tie with "Batad," "Kanlit, Kanda" and "Balimbin."

Shot with an HD camera and "do-it-yourself" equipment, the film was also named by the San Francisco Daily Guardian as the "single most important Filipino Film of 2006."

SIMMEZ: director Manay, the "Ilahyan" of the village of Bubli.

Their wounds refuse to heal

By Gerrelino Lucero
Davao City

MILDA: secretary general Mario Milan Enriquez (left) urges human rights victims of martial law to come out and let the world know about their sufferings. Lolinda Salvacion wonders whether justice will ever come over a decade after deposed President Ferdinand Marcos died and most of the culprits gone.

LOLINDA SALVACION, 60, showed the bullet hole just above her breast, where soldiers once hit her with a rifle butt in one of those surprise raids in Mintrik, a barangay of Nabunturan town in Compostela Valley at the height of Marcos' rule in 1985.

"We were harvesting corn, then, and I was looking for a friend," she recalled. "Someone told me my friend was in the house but when I went there, the house was full of soldiers. Right there and then, one of them seized me and beat me up," she said.

Later, she was brought to the soldiers' camp in Nabunturan where she was questioned but after nothing they could not coerce anything from her, and with the help of her cousin's husband who was the town's chief of police, they let her go.

Salvacion was 29 when it happened but until now, her pains remain.

Unlike Salvacion, countless numbers of martial law victims were not so lucky.

Cornelio Balmisa, 46, recalled how armed men killed her brother inside their home in a far-flung barangay of Davao del Norte in 1986.

Class suit

After hearing about the class suit against former President Ferdinand Marcos filed before a Hawaiian court, families of victims of human rights abuses during Marcos' 20-year rule started asking if justice could will be served over a decade after the perpetrators have died.

Human victims' families have been pining for the money they could hopefully get if they win the case in the US courts but Marie Milan Enriquez, national secretary general of the political detainees' group Selda, said it's not as much for the money than they filed the case but to show to the world that human rights abuses really happened during martial law.

"We never thought of winning when we filed the case," she said. "If we win, we would treat it as a bonus for all we wanted was to show the world the faces of martial law victims," the said of the case that dragged on for over a decade now.

"It's important to let the world know, to tell the next generation what happened before everything is forgotten because things like these are not serious in our textbooks," she said.

Tip of the iceberg

"This is the only justice we can get for the ordeal that we went through," Enriquez said.

"When we were detained, people thought we were criminals. Our neighbors were scared of us. What are were through was something no amount of money could ever pay," she added.

She said close to 10,000 victims of martial law have been recognized as claimants to Marcos' ill-gotten wealth in a class suit filed before a US court in Hawaii, but this figure is only the tip of the iceberg, she said. "Within the 20-year rule, the number of victims could easily reach a million," she said.

A group who called themselves Claimants 1081, however, has been saying that the number of validated claimants has been reduced to 7,000, and how, to 6,000, clearing confusion among the victims and their survivors.

But Enriquez said the names of original claimants have already been validated and sealed in the US court that ruled the class suit filed it will need a court order to release these names.

Like the controversial battle for the $684 million held in escrow in Swiss banks which, human rights groups said, supposedly rightfully from the victims' treasury, Selda expects the indemnification case of martial law victims to drag on for years.

Syndicates

But a mere prospect of getting the money has spawned syndicates who, upon promises of a share of Marcos' ill-gotten wealth, have been collecting money from hapless people in the countryside desperate to do anything just to cling on to something to live by.

Salvacion is among the human rights victims who are asking if their names are in the list of claimants in a class suit against Marcos filed before the US courts.

But whether their names are included or not, Selda urges martial victims like her to come to the open to tell the world the pains they suffered.

A bill has been passed in the Lower House and the Senate that sets aside P10 billion for the indemnification of martial law victims from Marcos' ill-gotten wealth, which presently goes to the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP). If approved, the bill (which will still have to go through a joint Senate and Lower House bicameral committee) will be a chance for victims of human rights violations during martial law to seek indemnification.

But Enriquez said the money for filing the case is to for those all names of the victims of martial law and to leave a record in history. At present, when most of those responsible for the deaths and disappearances during martial law are back in power, she said, survivors should see to it that no one forgets.

"When everybody else seems to have forgotten, it is almost our duty as victims to remember," she said.

"Now, that they're back in power, it's our painful duty to tell the world our pain," she added.

EXPECT A REPEAT PERFORMANCE THIS YEAR.

2006 ACHIEVEMENTS

• NURSING TOPNOTCHERS
DECEMBER 2006

2nd Place	Denvid S. Jungco
3rd Place	Ma. Sophia Francesca D. Cruz
6th Place	Claudette L. De Castro
7th Place	John Mark V. Gonzales
9th Place	Diana E. Mahinay
	Madilyn L. Villanueva
10th Place	Annabelle B. Arevalo
	Ma. Visitacion R. Monroe

• MEDICINE TOPNOTCHERS
FEBRUARY 2006

1st Place	Mary Joy Corer, MD
2nd Place	Sergio Apde, Jr., MD
4th Place	Joy Lourdes Dacuanos, MD
5th Place	Ferdinand Lanuria, MD
10th Place	Elrene Macale, MD

• MEDICINE
CONSISTENT 1ST PLACERS
Annapolis Dumlao, MD (Feb 2003)
Loubernin Antonio, MD (Feb 2003)
Josulito Javior, MD (Aug 2003)
Elmer Lacisto, MD (Feb 2004)
Christopher Chung, MD (Feb 2005)
Mary Joy Corer, MD (Feb 2006)

• PHARMACY
100% Passing (January 2006)
100 % Passing - Batch 2006 (July 2006)

• DENTISTRY
Top Performing School (December 2006)

• MARINE TRANSPORTATION
100% Passing

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NEWS

More wind turbines to rise in Ilocos

By Cristina Arnaldo
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BANGUI, ILOCOS NORTE—FIVE more wind turbines are expected to be put up at the 25-megawatt Bangui wind farm here to boost the energy supply for power consumers in this province.

Another 30-MW wind power plant will be constructed in Burgos by Bangui town through a $75 million government joint venture on super regions program. The wind farm is a project of the Philippine National Oil Co.

"The Bangui wind farm is an example of a private investment. But we need more investments in North Luzon in the areas of agribusiness and energy," President Macapagal-Arroyo said during a visit to the wind farm on Saturday.

Owned and operated by the Northwind Power Development Corp., the wind farm consists of 15 wind turbines and supplies 98 percent of Ilocos Norte's power requirements.

Northwind chair Ferdinand Dyogi said the use of wind energy has resulted to savings of P50 million since the wind farm started operating in June 2006.

Mrs Arroyo arrived at Laoag International Airport at around 1 p.m. She was accompanied by Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla, Public Works Secretary Manuel Bonoan and Indoc Energy Secretary Vincent Perez, now a contractor of the Bangui wind farm.

Her party was met by provincial officials led by Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr., Rep. Simplicio Alfiler Jr. and Laoag City Mayor Michael Fariñas.

Mrs Arroyo was in Ilocos Norte on the invitation of Fariñas to grace the Pamulinawen Festival, the city's main fiesta celebration.

The President and Ilocos Norte was included in the government's priority allocation of support programs under the North Luzon Agribusiness Growth Quadrangle.

Ilocos Norte and Laoag City she said, should brace for the opening of a Chinese consulate in the city, the second consular post outside of Metro Manila. The first one is in Cebu City.

"We welcome our Chinese investors who are willing to provide funds in the areas of mining and agribusiness," she said.

THE POWER OF THE WIND
President Arroyo inspects the 25-megawatt Northwind Bangui Bay Project in Bangui, Ilocos Norte. The project, which currently has 15 wind turbines erected on a 9-km stretch of undeveloped foreshore area, will soon see the addition of five turbines to add to the already 98 percent of the electricity requirements of Ilocos Norte that are being met minus the greenhouse gas emissions.

Military advances deadline for end of Abu Sayyaf

By Dona Pazolagan

THE MILITARY HAS SET A NEW DEADLINE POR itself to finish off the remnants of the Abu Sayyaf group in Sulu "in the very immediate future."

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon is mapping the new deadline six months after the introduction of "Oplan Ultimatum," the intensified maritime for the terrorist terror group in the island province.

The military has also deployed a fresh batch of Special Forces troops, in addition to about 8,000 troops already in Sulu.

"We have imposed another deadline, a self-imposed deadline to our operations in Sulu. We are adding some more special forces to add to the current punch that we have there," Esperon told reporters.

"Within the year, [in the] very immediate future, that's what we're planning for," he said.

Esperon earlier said the military operation in Sulu would continue until all major commanders of the Abu Sayyaf had been captured or killed.

The Abu Sayyaf, which has been linked to the al-Qaida terror network of Osama bin Laden, has been blamed for deadly bomb attacks, beheadings and kidnappings.

Last month, the military reported having killed Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khadaffy Janjalani, Abu Sulaiman and seven other subcommanders and key aides in a series of encounters in Sulu and Tawi-Tawi.

Janjalani was killed in a gun battle with Marines in Patikul, Sulu, on Sept. 4, 2006, which also claimed the lives of six Marines and wounded 19 others.

His remains were recovered on Dec. 27, 2006, and were confirmed to be Janjalani's last Jan. 29 after a forensic test conducted by the US Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Abu Sulaiman, whose real name was Jainal Antel Sali, was killed by Army Special Forces troops on Jan. 16 on Mount Tuke, Talipao, Sulu.

He was alleged to have planned the 2001 Dos Palmas resort kidnapping, the 2004 Superferry 14 bombing and the 2005 Valentine's Day bombings.

Esperon said the Sulu operation was his chief preoccupation now.

"You may not believe it, but for three straight days I've been talking about it with the President, and really, we have to finish that operation," he said.

"We have to knock out the key personalities there so that we can better deliver the development programs which will provide the long-term solution," he added.

Among the "high-value military targets" in Sulu are two Indonesian members of the regional Jemaah Islamiyah terror group—Dulmatin and Umar Patek—who allegedly masterminded the 2002 bombings in Bali, Indonesia.

The remaining Abu Sayyaf leaders are Radullan Sahiron, alias Commander Putol, Isnilon Hapilon who, according to unconfirmed reports has fled to Basilan, also Puks and Tamlah Sahibul.

They are all in the western line of the Philippine and US government.

The Sulu operation hit a major snag after the Moro National Liberation Front complained that nine of its members were killed in a "misencounter" with Marines in Patikul, Sulu, on Jan. 18. Three Marines were also killed in the encounter.

The matter was settled after a government-MNLF joint fact-finding team headed by Maj. Gen. Rey Mohammad Dolorfino and Undersecretary for the Peace Process Ramon Santos paid at least P500,000 in compensation to the families of the nine MNLF members. [illegible]

But Dolorfino and his team were prevented from leaving the MNLF camp in Panamao, Sulu, for two nights until the government assured MNLF leader Habier Malik that a tripartite meeting with the Organization of the Islamic Conference would push through next month.

Aplus METRO
Editor Estor G. Dipasupil
Text or pics hotlines: inquirer.net/cmail/apl/city/message to 2332 (Globe/Lex 282) (Smart) E-mail: pi_metro@inquirer.com.ph

IN A HOUSE in Barangay Sta. Elena, Marikina City, youthful offenders are being given a second chance. As part of their rehabilitation and to give them an outlet for their pent-up emotions, they paint and draw. Some of their works have been featured in several exhibits. ALEXIS ROMANO

Troubled minors find hope in a 'home without bars'

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

IT IS A DETENTION FACILITY WITHOUT prison bars.

Those inside could freely roam the compound, play basketball if they want to, eat scrumptious meals, look at themselves with dignity and start to rebuild their lives.

It is an old but well-maintained house in Barangay Sta. Elena in Marikina City, owned by 58-year-old widow Isabela Sarse, who has turned it into a home for minors in conflict with the law.

"These children should not be incarcerated where they will only be exposed to adult suspects. They need a home so their misdemeanors will be lenient," Sarse told the inquirer.

Youthful offenders in the city used to be detained at the city jail because the city social welfare division did not have a facility for children. They were placed a separate cell, but it was adjacent to those of adult suspects.

Sarse visited the jail with some friends three years ago, not knowing that her unplanned visit would give her life a deeper purpose. Soon, she was visiting the jail regularly and one day, she brought with her artist Dennis Miguel who started holding art workshops for the children.

Temporary facility

In compliance with a new law on minors in conflict with the law, the city government asked Sarse last year if her house could be turned into a temporary facility for the children.

Twenty-two children were brought to her house with the original plan of letting them stay there for just one week.

But that week already marks the first anniversary of her house becoming a "home without bars" as she calls it.

Thirteen children remain in the house, which also accommodates victims of abuse and children found loitering in the streets. Some stay for a few days before they are reunited to their parents while 11-year-old Carlo has been staying there for a few months as his father and stepmother have not been looking for him.

"My stepmother does not like me," Carlo whispered in the interview during a visit, concealing his face with a newspaper so that the other children would not hear what he said.

The servants' quarters in the house had been renovated to accommodate Carlo and the rest of the boys while three girls sleep in a bedroom next to Sarse's.

Miguel no longer visits the children for their art sessions, which he had conceptualized to give the children some outlet for their deepest emotions.

He has moved into Sarse's house, sleeping in the servants' quarters where the boys stay.

"They are already like my own children," Miguel, who is still single at 45, told the inquirer.

Being cut off prison has changed the children's outlook tremendously, he added. It shows in their artworks.

Miguel said the paintings produced by the children when they were still behind bars were dominated by dark colors, conveying loneliness and gloom. Their artworks are now "more powerful," full of bright colors, a signal restaurant buyer, he added.

Their paintings have been featured in art exhibits at the Marikina City Hall, the University of Sto. Tomas, the GSIS Building, as well as at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Three of his students have also started joining art competitions.

Displayed on walls around the house are sheets of paper with instructions, like one telling the children not to open the television set without first asking for permission and another listing the names of those assigned to wash the dishes.

TROUBLED B 10

"I USED to look down on myself when I was still in the city jail. But here, I can feel that ... we are being given a chance to reborn," said Joseph, a youthful offender staying in the "home."

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JOB

Retirement is not in this priest's vocabulary

By Margaux C. Ortiz

AT 82, FR. PIERRE THIÉ RAN every season to relax and just spend time with his brothers and sisters in his native France.

But Thié, who gave up his French citizenship to become a Filipino many years ago, has no intention of doing so.

His blue eyes twinkling, the Jesuit priest declared in an interview with the business that he would continue to help underprivileged Filipino children for as long as he lives.

"There will be no retirement for me," Thié said in a soft but clear voice. "I will work for as long as I can."

His unwavering dedication to the welfare of poor Filipino children has not gone unnoticed. Last month, the French government made Thié an officer (officier) of the Order of Legion of Honor (Ordre de la Legion d'honneur).

Ambassador Gerard Chesnel presented him with an insignia of the order a month later. And a certificate signed by French President Jacques Chirac during the commencement ceremony held at the Iloilo Technical and Vocational Secondary School in Pandiacan, Manila.

Chesnel acknowledged the Jesuit's efforts in putting up free nongovernment organizations in the Philippines and the Educational Research and Development Assistance (Ertad, Inc.), Fondation for the Assistance to Humanities (Fahum), Iloilo Tech Foundation and Fr. Bert Schweitzer Association Philippines (Asap).

Take a the pendent of the four 1950s visuals, for the past decades, have been helping disadvantaged Filipino children. Thié and Iloilo Tech Foundation provide poor children with an education and technical skills to help them find work and improve their lives. Asap, on the other hand, gives help to child prisoners while Fahum assists leprosy patients and their families.

"In 1974, he became a Filipino citizen not because he had any disagreement with his homeland, but because he wanted to facilitate his missions with government agencies dealing with the welfare of children," Chesnel said in his address during the awarding ceremony.

"In return, France was not reductive at all, and has [even] awarded him two prestigious decorations: Chevalier of the Legion d'Honneur in 1996 and the Chevalier of the Ordre National du Merite in 1993," the French ambassador said.

Thié arrived in the Philippines in 1950 and became administrator for two years of a Jesuit center that housed missionaries from China.

In 1952, Salvador Aguirre, owner and president of Ateneo de Manila University, donated a building in Novaliches to the Jesuits. It is now the school Thié try to be the chaplain of his school.

"I would not refuse because of saying no both [duties of spiritual]," Thié said with a chuckle.

He was busy for the next several years as he also taught psychology courses at Ateneo de Manila University, University of the East and the Eastern University.

But in the 1960s, he read an article by a Department of Education official on the alarming dropout situation in the Philippines.

"The article by Teresa Gavin disclosed that out of 100 first grade students, only 50 were able to finish elementary school," Iloilo Tech administrator Maria Fe Belleza-Bautista said.

Shortly, Belleza-Bautista was Thié's good friend, and the article disturbed the Jesuit priest.

"Everybody enthusiastically volunteered for the task," Bautista recalled, adding she was among the hundreds of students involved in the project.

"Father Thié was very charismatic and engaging. He was able to convince and encourage his students that there were a lot of things they could do to help those kids," she said.

The Jesuit priest may have acquired his enthusiasm for altruism from his deeply religious family, according to Martinez.

"In fact, each family in the town of Bourneville where he grew up had a child who became either a nun or a priest or son," she said.

Thié's sister, Catherine, who died last year, was a Carmelite nun in Loconia City.

His brother, Jean, also a Jesuit priest, became a missionary in Madagascar and helped build a leprosarium there. Jean died in Madagascar's hometown in 1998.

Martinez said Thié's initiation in 1974 realized into different programs focusing on health, education and livelihood services, and the rights of children.

The Jesuit likewise helped in the construction of Iloilo Tech school in Pandiacan, Manila in 1994 to provide technical and vocational (tech-voc) training for young people.

"He recognized how high-school graduates in the Philippines were more academic-oriented which deprived them of work that required technical skills," Martinez said.

She added that the school's formal and nonformal programs assisted around 800 youths every year.

Father Thié has been pushing for more young people to go to Iloilo Tech since the building could accommodate as many as 2,000 students," she said.

"But the (students) are not coming in," she said. She noted that advanced countries like Japan, Germany and Taiwan assisted their young people in technical skills to get them ready for work.

"About 85 percent of donations to our foundation come from rich Europeans, countries such as France, Belgium, Germany, Spain and Switzerland," Titty said.

In his letters to potential donors, he explains how they help street children by sending them to school. "Instead of money, we give them children something that they can use to improve their lives," he said.

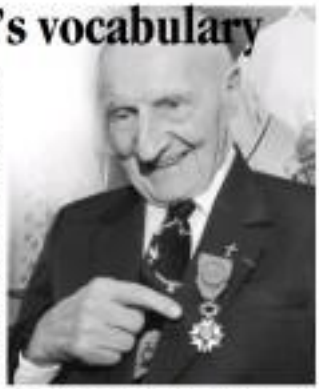
After spending the day at the Iloilo Foundation office in Quezon City, Thié goes back to the Hospital of the Infant Jesus in Novaliches, Manila where he is the resident chaplain.

He spends the night there after performing his duties such as baptizing newborns to children in critical condition.

Thié also celebrates Holy Mass every morning and presides for the spiritual needs of hospital personnel, mostly children.

According to him, working 24 hours a day is the secret of success but he does more than half that.

"It is enough for me to see all these smiles and to see children go home happy at the end of the day," he said.



JESUIT priest Fr. Pierre Thié: I will continue to work for as long as I can.

THE FRENCH government, through its Ambassador, Gerard Chesnel, last month recognized Thié's various achievements by making him an officer (officier) of the Order of Legion of Honor (Ordre de la Legion d'Honneur).

Las Piñas forms 'private army' against dengue

By John M. Bonifacio

THE LAS PIÑAS GOVERNMENT is forming its own private army, not for the upcoming elections, but to fight dengue.

Mayor Imelda Aguilar has ordered the creation of a working group to combat the mosquito-borne menace. She also directed health personnel to help in the campaign.

Called "Task Force On Dengue," the group is composed of representatives from the city health department, barangays, National Statistics Center, Clean and Green Council, Sanitation Office, engineering department, sectors, barangays, homeowners' associations and city schools.

The task force will be in charge of spearheading the cleanup drive to reduce dengue cases in the city even though Las Piñas has been spared from an outbreak in past months.

"I am reiterating my appeal to all residents, homeowners' associations, school teachers and barangay officials to fight and eliminate the breeding sites of mosquito larvae in their respective areas to fight the deadly dengue virus effectively," Aguilar said.

She also called on residents to prevent the spread of dengue-carrying mosquitoes by not allowing clean water to open containers.

Mosquito larvae or "kiti-kiti" are known to breed in stagnant and clean water.

In addition, Aguilar ordered the city health officers to undertake a massive house-to-house information campaign to teach the public how to avoid contracting dengue and other water-borne diseases.

All doctors and health workers in Las Piñas' more than 50 health centers will be tapped for the information drive.

Residents were also reminded to clean their backyards of the cans, used or old tires and other containers where water can accumulate and serve as a breeding ground for dengue-carrying mosquitoes.

Mayor Aguilar also ordered the "Dengue Brigade" which aims to mobilize elementary and high school students in the information campaign against the disease.

Palace declares Feb. 13 a holiday in Parañaque

By Jocelyn R. Uy

MALACAÑANG HAS DECLARED Feb. 13 a special nonworking holiday in Parañaque in celebration of the city's 400th anniversary.

According to the city's public information office, there will be no work in private and public offices while classes will be suspended in all levels on Tuesday to allow residents to join the celebration.

"I am elated that Malacañang has declared some Feb. 13 as a special holiday so that residents will be able to fully appreciate the anniversary of our city fiesta with us," Parañaque Mayor Florencio Bernabe said in a statement yesterday.

To kick off the celebration, the city government will sponsor a fun runner today at 6 p.m. at the El Shaddai Open Field on Sucat Road. The honorary fun runners' guest: Iriga Fernandez, rapper French Magalona, comedians Alan K., Tessi Gaite and Gladys Guevara and bands like Parokya ni Edgar and Kamikazee.

Troubled minors find hope . . .

Homepage A11

"We let them do household chores as part of the rehabilitation so they will also experience the life they had not experienced in jail or in their own homes," Bautista said.

It is a new life 20-year-old Josephine savoring.

He was only 17 when he was jailed for illegal possession of firearms. He rues still pending before the court, he was among the original batch of children transferred from the city jail to their new home.

"I used to look down on myself when I was still in the city jail. But here, I can feel that even if we are still detained, we are being given a chance to reform," Joseph, who now an one of the leaders of the group, told the bureau.

Preparing to run hired mall fish with two cups of rice on Friday noon, he recalled the bland taste of food being rationed to them at

TEMPTEEN children are staying in the facility which also welcomes abuse victims and the homeless.

the city jail.

In there, he was surrounded by adult suspects, some of whom tried to recruit him into their cohort group, he added.

According to Joseph, their food bodies also become easy convenient for bored adult suspects who would draw tattoos.

Simple hopes

Miguel has simple hopes for the children. For one, a nurses room is nearing there having a disorder in their livers, getting a decent job even with a small salary and not having to go back to their old ways.

Three pairs of guards from City Hall work to round-the-clock shifts at the house. Aside gets a no-gun allowance for the children from the city social welfare, where she and Miguel serve as consultants. But just as it is financially straining, the mission is also rewarding.

Sister gets help and not judgmental from her own children, who rule the house regularly. Her 22-year-old daughter gives her supplies for the children while her 25-year-old son drops by to play with them. "They help out pay for the electricity and other expenses," Sister added.

Her another discerning task is to

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This section is dedicated to Filipinos everywhere living on land and at sea, in airplanes, in construction sites and in the homes of the wealthy, and whenever work can be scattered to ensure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

2 LOVE STORIES

Navy man desperately misses US-based wife, junks career

LOVE CAN NEVER BE DIVIDED THAN THIS. Raj receives encouragement from his colleagues in the Philippine Navy, including Lt. Cmdr. Ignacio Carbonell (at left) during his send-off party at Camp Aguinaldo.

By Marc Anthony Carrasco and Rollins Lopez III
Contributors

NO ONE CAN HAVE IT BOTH WAYS; EITHER you journey with the tide or go against it. That is how life flows.

But for 23-year-old Ensign Raymund Golez, an officer of the Philippine Navy, he was willing to sacrifice the stability that came with his job and let go of the comfortable, almost free years spent to serve, protect and defend the motherland.

"Wondrous," as he is fondly called by his friends, let go of it all for his one and only love, his wife Melissa, 24.

For the past three years of his military career, he only enjoyed the company of his wife twice a year and an average of no more than three weeks.

"I just want to be with her. I don't want to have another long-distance relationship," said the officer who resigned Dec. 1.

It's not that the couple didn't attempt to live here in the Philippines, but it's more of Melissa wanting to stay in the United States because of the better opportunities compared with here.

Savings

"She stayed here with me for six months last year," said Raymund, nephew of ambassador Rodolfo Golez. "At that time she was planning to pursue a career in the field of medicine."

But Melissa, who was born in the US and whose parents are Cambodian, eventually decided to return to the US and study nursing.

Raymund never feels he must relinquish his life in the Navy and pursue a business course.

Earning the basic salary of an ensign (rank equivalent to the Army's first lieutenant, LTJG of PHP30,000 plus other benefits), Raymund's life might be called comfortable.

Through the course of service, he had earned a substantial amount of money enough to put food on the table and support a family.

"All I got saved right now is more or less P140,000. It won't even be enough for a month's stay in the States," he said.

Unfortunately, for Raymund, as the States' bar-pull have to stay with Melissa in his mother-in-law's house.

They will do as well be lands a stable job that could afford rent and other expenses while Melissa pursues her nursing studies.

Citizenship

"If we plan to go down low we would just have to set aside $500 every time, it would cost us $20 per day and that's for three meals alone, not to mention the rent, transportation and other expenses," he said.

Until last December, he was assigned in Naval Construction Brigade (Seabees) in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

"I was interested there and the good thing about it is I was able to adjust from ship life to office work," he said.

"Since I have a mandatory eight years of service, I have to pay for the remaining four years. It's kind of tough on the pocket, but I have made my decision."

The transfer is helping Raymund to adjust to office work because it is very different from being out there ship. "I get to handle papers and learn how things are done in the office, which is like in the business world."

It all goes well and runs smoothly Raymund might be able to leave for the US after the Holy week for good. He resigned last December.

Beauty contestant

Raymund met Melissa in a beauty pageant for Filipino-Americans in Maryland in 2002, where Melissa was a contestant and Raymund the escort.

Melissa then had a boyfriend, although they were having a rocky relationship.

They talked and clicked at once. After three years of courtship, they got married twice: first on Oct. 22, 2005. They had a church wedding on the same day the following year at St. Ignatius Cathedral in Camp Aguinaldo.

Because as he gave us the finger, Raymund plans to get into business.

"I guess I'll be a corporate employee first and if I save more than enough for my family, I'll eventually put up a business of my own," he said.

Future plans

He plans to take it one step at a time because he knows his time with Melissa.

"I'll consult some career advisers; they have that in the States. They help you find a job." This adventurer dreams of owning his own house and raising three kids.

"Guess by adopting baby's big girl, a boy and a baby," Raymund said. At least young enough," exclaimed Raymund.

Raymund was born in St. Luke's Hospital in Quezon City to proud parents Commodore Ferdinand Golez and Shirley, a retired nurse.

After his high school graduation, he took the Philippine Military Academy entrance exams and made it to the Top 20.

Two years in of summer training at Fort Del Pilar in Baguio City, he applied for and passed the USNA entrance exam and became one of the few Filipinos to decide to enter the academy after the United States pulled out their bases in the Philippines.

He stayed there for four years and finished mechanical engineering, considered one of the hardest courses in the USNA.

"I like challenges, so when they asked what course I'll take, I asked first one of my buckmates about the hardest course and he told me that it's Mech-Eng. Not knowing how hard, I took that as a challenge."

Back in the Philippines, he was always at the top of the class, but to others Raymund was an average student.

"My drop-up course is, and I was just aiming to pass. Just to be sure! So to [ensure] me 'see, passed[ed] me.'

But he wants to see one of his kids graduate as ADMA. "That's every USNA graduate's dream," he said.

Best years of their lives, even if spent apart

By Alex Carrillo D. Esposo
Contributor

MY MOTHER AND I WERE SITTING BY THE dining table, drinking cold milk on an early morning in January. I said, "Ma, tell me your love story."

I am turning 22 this year but it was only three days I had asked about my parents' love story. She said, "Wait, let me remember."

My mother had the look of someone trying to recall the past with both excitement and embarrassment. "We got married 1977, this year's going to be her 30th year together but your father had spent more years together with a dispersion than with me."

I thought of the many nevadons my father had missed celebrating with us and felt sad here he missed all the special moments of my life and that of my two other sisters, Sarah and Gracie. But mom smiled. "It was great though, in fact the best."

How they met

My mother is from Bontoc, Mountain Province, while my father from Ifugao, Bangabuan. She was in first year college taking BS Accountancy at the University of the East on Recto Avenue when he came here. he had just completed his two-year diploma course in Associate in Electrical Engineering at the Philippine Maritime Institute in Tondo. They lived in the same apartment house. He was occupying the upper room on the second floor, while my mother and her family occupied the lower portion.

"He was always [coming] up and down the stairs. I would see him with his guitar, singing to himself. I thought he was crazy," my mother said.

Their first date was a movie outing at Fort Del Pilar in Baguio City, he applied for and passed the USNA entrance exam and became one of the few Filipinos to decide to enter the academy after the United States pulled out their bases in the Philippines.

He stayed there for four years and finished mechanical engineering, considered one of the hardest courses in the USNA.

"I like challenges, so when they asked what course I'll take, I asked first one of my buckmates about the hardest course and he told me that it's Mech-Eng. Not knowing how hard, I took that as a challenge."

Back in the Philippines, he was always at the top of the class, but to others Raymund was an average student.

"My drop-up course is, and I was just aiming to pass. Just to be sure! So to [ensure] me 'see, passed[ed] me.'

But he wants to see one of his kids graduate as ADMA. "That's every USNA graduate's dream," he said.

MARK and Rhea Esposito in 2002: He is her surviving suitor; she is his perpetual girlfriend.

with him to the province." She paused and laughed, "The big was full of money; only they were not his but he had the gun to run away with me, and I gave in."

After their honeymoon stay at my father's relatives, his uncles decided that the two should be married. "They even wanted me to sign a waiver that your father did not have me to come with him," she recalled. "Well, I was just 19 then, that's why."

When both were their families' [illegible] marriage came as a big disappointment. My mother is the eldest of five children of a carpenter father and a [illegible] housewife mother. They had high hopes for her—the pride, the first born. She even persuaded them not to marry until she was 30, when she left for Manila to study.

My father, on the other hand, was the sister kids. He should have been living a good and well-supported life but not after his father, a marine soldier, was assigned in Quezon province when he was 5 years old. That was the last time he saw my grandfather.

My parents had a poor beginning. They did not have even a decent chair, empty boxes would pass as their sofa set. So schoolmarm, my mother, would [illegible] my father's salary to save money. She stayed at home doing the laundry, washing the dishes and cleaning the house. He worked part-time for his father-in-law who by then was already a barangay. "It was hard, we literally had money," my mother said.

The sacrifice

She decided to look for work. She worked as a casual steward for Alitalia (now Alitalia Boulevard). "I was in charge of drying kitchen utensils," she said. She transferred to Pegasus Hotel after a few months with the same job. "It was the first time, I experienced going out there, even my first time to eat at Goldilocks and watch a movie with friends." My mother said on how she got hooked on the "regulating respect error" and how it affected the relationship she had with my father. "He was always drunk every time I came home, how it hurt his ego that I was working while he was not." And since—since when she quit working and started the opportunities she had—all for my father.

He worked harder. He repaired his office every day, pressing his mouth for a chance to be included in the next lineup to man a ship as a crew member. Two years after, he had his first ride. He married with the lowest position, nonetheless, he called "Skill-Ordinary" and he literally did such work.

My mother, born a thrifty person, was able to manage and pay all their debts with my father's monthly remittance and she got to buy home appliances, one by one. "We got to pay our debts while he was 'away' but when he returned home, we began accumulating debts again," my mother said. "That's when I urged him to take the chance he promised to take years ago. Why be a crew member when you could be the master. I just don't want him to be away from us for nothing." My father took the examination every two years.

"We have a refrigerator and other appliances," she said. Indeed we have a great house, how because of rice field, farm animals and some apartments and rooms for rent.

I'm suddenly some to realize and appreciate more the love my father has for us—it was awesome, distinctive, unselfish, sacrificial.

The love

I admire how my parents' love has survived even though they are miles apart. My father called me every now and then—not even the global roaming telecom service alerted. They will engage in "baby-talk" even if we're time three schoolmarks.

My 50-year-old father sends her bouquets of roses and cakes every month to her office. I've learned with the lessons passions

The WORLD

Edna Lorraine B. Guanzo

US: Deadliest bomb in Baghdad made by Iran

WASHINGTON—THE MOST LETHAL WEAPON directed against US troops in Baghdad is an explosive-packed cylinder that US intelligence asserts is being supplied by Iran.

The assertion of an Iranian role in supplying the device to Shiite militias reflects broad agreement among US intelligence agencies, although officials acknowledge that the picture is not entirely complete.

In interviews, civilian and military officials from a broad range of government agencies provided specific details to support what until now has been a more generally worded claim. In a new National Intelligence Estimate, that Iran is providing "lethal support" to Shiite militants in Iraq.

The main focus of US concern is the weapon known as an "explosively formed penetrator," a particularly deadly type of roadside bomb being used almost exclusively by Shiite groups in attacks on US troops in Iraq, thanks to technology that has doubled in the past year; the device can penetrate armor at a scale far higher than other roadside bombs.

In late 2006, attacks using the weapon accounted for a significant portion of American killed and wounded in Iraq, though far less than half of the total, according to military officials.

Because the weapon can be fired from the side of the road and is favored by Shiite militias, it has become particularly serious threat in Baghdad. Only a small fraction of the roadside bombs used in Iraq are explosively formed penetrators. But the device produces more casualties per attack than other types of roadside bombs.

The link that US intelligence has drawn to Iran is based on an analysis of captured devices, examination of debris following attacks, and intelligence on training of Shiite militiamen.

The Bush administration is expected to make public this assessment—and some of what intelligence agencies regard as an increasing body of evidence pointing to active Iranian links.

Information expected to be made public this weekend includes an investigation reports from a Jan. 11 raid in northern Iraq, and an earlier raid in Baghdad indicating that money and weapons components are being brought into Iraq from Iran by night. One of the detainees has identified an Iranian operative as having supplied bombs.

According to US intelligence, Iran has circled its developing this type of bomb. The manufacturer of the key metal components required sophisticated machinery cost material and expertise that US intelligence agencies do not believe exist in Iraq. Some components of the bombs have been found with Iranian factory markings from 2006.

—New York Times News Service

US, North Korea inch closer to nuclear deal

WASHINGTON—NORTH KOREA and the United States appeared to be inching closer to a deal that would establish a schedule for Pyongyang to shut down and seal its atomic nuclear facilities within two months, The New York Times reported yesterday.

The newspaper said that North Korea was expected to receive by return shipments of fuel oil from South Korea and talks over normalization of relations with Washington.

But the top Americans envoy negotiating the deal cautioned that the two sides remained stuck on "one or two" small issues.

"Nothing is agreed unless everything is agreed," Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill is quoted by the paper as saying. "So I just want to be careful about predicting success tomorrow." But in Washington, officials at the White House and the State Department were preparing for a major announcement this weekend, and described the agreement as very different from the modest freeze that the Clinton administration negotiated in 1994, the report said.

"This is the Libya model," The Times quotes one senior administration official as saying, referring to Libya's decision in late 2003 to turn over all the equipment it had purchased from the secret nuclear network run by the Pakistan scientist, Abdul Qadeer Khan.

It says that agreement, both the Libyans and the United States took a series of steps that rid the country of nuclear technology and ended its isolation.

It is still unclear exactly what sort of timeline North Korea would agree to, and how quickly it would turn over the plutonium it has produced, along with whatever weapons it may have built, the paper said.

In the past, the Bush administration would have objected to the idea of "freeze" that former president Bill Clinton signed, because North Korea uses our forced to give up its weapons fuel before it reaped rewards, the report said.

Administration officials say the disagreement would be different, because the biggest benefits for the North would come only after it allowed in inspectors, sealed in facilities and began to give up its weapons, The Times noted. AFP

Autopsy gives no fast clues to Smith's death

AS A MEDICAL EXAMINER ON one count conducted an autopsy and a judge on another count ordered her body preserved for 15 days, Anna Nicole Smith unceremonious the grisly, grueling celebrity stage on Friday as she had tried to do in life.

The medical examiner in Broward County, Fla., called her death "sudden, unexpected and unexplained," and said more tests were needed to determine the cause. Smith, 39, a former Playboy model who became a pop-culture punch line in the 1990s after she married an octogenarian tycoon, was found dead Thursday in a hotel suite in Hollywood, Fla.

Friday was a day of almost nonstop coverage by cable television networks, and a day when a third man said he would have fathered Smith's 5-month-old daughter, joining the two men already fighting over paternity.

It was a day when the police chief whose officers were dispatched to the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino put to rest a rumor that had swirled in the aftermath: he denied on Seattle's final days—that her companion, Howard K. Stern, was fueling away drugs when paramedics arrived.

The chief, Charlie Tiger of the Seminole Police Department—which had jurisdiction because the hotel is on American Indian land—said, "None of our officers who arrived on scene saw anything like that."

The medical examiner said only prescription drugs were found in the room.

In California, the judge in the custody case over Smith's daughter, Dannielynn, denied a request for immediate DNA samples from lawyers for Smith. The judge, Robert Schneider of Los Angeles County Superior Court, also turned down a request for custody from Larry Birkhead, a photographer who is running Stern's paternity.

Stern is listed on the girl's birth certificate as the father. But yet another man said Friday that he might be the father. Prince Frederick von Anhalt, 50, who is married to the actress Zsa Zsa Gabor, 90, told The Associated Press that he and Smith had had an affair since the mid-1990s.

"If you go back from September," when Smith gave birth, Prince Frederick said, "it's true." He would not say with any of those guys she was with sex." NYT

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 920-2258 to 61 • (632) 929-6626
Telefax: (632) 920-2261 • (632) 929-6252
e-mail: [illegible]

Second Land Administration and Management Project (LAMP II)

Request for Expressions of Interest

The Republic of the Philippines thru the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has received a loan from the World Bank and intends to apply part of this loan to cover payments under the following contracts of Detailed Engineering Design (DED) for the Second Land Administration and Management Project (LAMP II):

1. Conduct of a Detailed Engineering Design (DED) for the Expansion/Construction of Land Management Bureau (LMB) Regional Offices

The DED established in Leyte provided land administration services to only one (1) municipalities of LAMP I. The design of the DED was not able to factor in the expansion of operations in the whole province. The current DED will be able to factor in the expansion of operations in the province and subsequent expansion and support the LAMP II implementation efficiently only until the end of year 2000. Given this, there is a need to undertake the DED for the Regional Offices to cope with the increased volume of transactions and to support the expanded operations of the LMB.

The assignment includes the architectural design, detailed engineering design with design analysis and cost estimates taking into consideration seamless and the space requirements for administrative functions, space and records storage to house Computerized and management for the DENR Telecommunications in Tacloban, Palo, Leyte.

2. Conduct of a Detailed Engineering Design (DED) for the Construction of Two Storey of DENR-CENRO located in Bohol and/or two (2) other provinces that are yet to be identified

To improve the Land Administration System, a One Stop Shop will be established under a Co-Management and Co-operation agreement between Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Land Registration Authority (LRA), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and the Local Government Unit (LGU) concerned. The aforementioned agencies will be housed in a building and will be established some time next. These activities include the land ownership processing at the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO), the application and the issuance of Free Patent at the Provincial Environment Office (PENRO), the registration and title activities of the Register of Deeds (ROD) and the land valuation and classification, development activities of the Municipal Agrarian Reform Office (MARO).

This includes the architectural design, detailed engineering design with design analysis and cost estimates, taking into consideration the seamless to the processing of CENRO transaction and adequate space for administrative functions, space and records storage to house Computerized Project Implementation Office (PPIO) and other participating agencies, design for the provision of records security and protection from damages, theft, fires and provision satisfactory ventilation and transparency in transactions.

The DENR now invites eligible consulting firms to indicate their interest in providing the consulting services. Only one (1) consulting firm (Association or Joint Venture) will be selected from the list of projects identified on or before February 15, 2007. Tel.No. 920-2258 loc. 6106 for more information.

ATTY. ANNALIZA REBULDELA-TAN
Assistant Secretary and Chairperson, BAC-LMPO
Attention: The Secretariat, BAC - DENR
LAMPO BIDDER
Visayas Avenue, Diliman
Quezon City, 1100 PHILIPPINES
Tel. No.: (632) 929-6626
Fax No.: (632) 920-2261

The firm will be selected following the Selection Based on Consultants Qualifications (SQN) method in accordance with the procedures specified in the Guidelines for Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank, May 2004.

Interested Firms may obtain further information and the prescribed format for submission at the address above starting Monday, February 12, 2007 from 08:00-17:00 hrs.

(Sgd.) ATTY. ANNALIZA REBULDELA-TAN
Assistant Secretary and Chairperson
BAC-LMPO
Foreign Assisted Projects

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of new (1) unit Security Appliance/Firewall

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY through its duly Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) intends to apply the sum of P600,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the supply and delivery of one (1) unit security appliance/firewall. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall not be considered for evaluation and opening.

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the supply and delivery of one (1) unit security appliance/firewall. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section 5 of the Bidding Documents, which is available at the BAC Office.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pre-qualification criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Bidders are enjoined to observe the duties and responsibilities of eligible Bidders as described in Section 5 of the Bidding Documents. ITB.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY and inspect the Bidding Documents during normal office hours at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of P2,500.00. The method of payment will be Cash/Manager's Check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or its authorized representative.

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on March 1, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. at the 4th Storeroom, 4th floor, Philagri Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the NFA Storeroom, 4th floor, Philagri Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City on or before March 7, 2007 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following forms and amount:

Form of Security	Required Amount or Percent of ABC
Cash, Cashier's/Certified Manager's Check, Bank draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
Surety Bond callable upon demand "Callable on Demand" as per Sec. 39 of the Revised Issued by GSIS	One and a half percent (1.5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to above

Bid opening shall be on March 8, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. at the NFA Storeroom, 4th floor, Philagri Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Procuring Entity: NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Contact Person(s): Jose P. Dino / Violeta D. Villaseca
Address(es): 4th floor, Philagri Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City
Telephone/Fax No.: (632) 920-2258
Mobile Phone: (0928) 4743732
e-mail address(es): violeta.villaseca@nfa.gov.ph
Website: www.nfa.gov.ph

(Sgd.) PEDRO D. HERNANDEZ, JR.
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair
for Administration and General Support Services

WORLDBRIEFS

Jerusalem calm after day of clashes

JERUSALEM—Cairo was under tight police security on extra day after Palestinian demonstrations crashed with police over Israeli wiretaps over the removal Al-Aqsa mosque left 20 people wounded. The renovations which triggered the clashes near the Old City's Dung Gate are unfinished to ensure next week, leaving broken off for the Sabbath Jewish day of rest. Meanwhile added, Muslim leaders in Jerusalem, meanwhile, government-run mosque prevents against the work to a stone ramp leading from Dung Gate to Al-Aqsa mosque compound, the site Jews call the Temple Mount and known as the Noble Sanctuary to Muslims. "We have a full program of prohibit for the coming weeks in order to keep the Israeli armies against the Al-Aqsa mosque," the third highest police in Israel, Yaakov Shabtai, told Israel Radio. Shabtai Yisrael Shitrit. "Continuing this work will only raise the tensions and anger among Palestinians and be the anti-Islamic world," Shitrit added. AFP

Hospital van dumps homeless on Skid Row

LOS ANGELES—Police said a man, who was dropping a to when unloading bag behind him, was dumped on the sidewalk in one of the worst parts of the city by the driver of a hospital van. The arrest the same location where city officials say homeless have dumped the homeless before. But, were on Skid Row, it was shocking, a paralegal, master's school graduate sitting among the curbside with his friends, clutching plastic bag with his belongings between his feet. Witnesses, all homeless people, began shouting, "Where is his advocate? Where is his worker?" Detective Russ Long said Friday. They told officers the driver responded that the man delivered in the van and had to be returned. Last month, 61 people were living on the streets was sending Skid Row, down from 90 in police Department count. That compared to 1,200 people at about the same time last year.

AP

Nigeria investigating foreign journalists

ABUJA—Nigerian security agencies have been investigating "subversive" activities by some foreign correspondents, the Prime Minister Frank Nweke said on Friday. In a statement mainly devoted to attacking a report on Nigeria by US television station CNN, Nweke denounced what he called "the international spreading of lies by some Western media outlets and of Nigeria and Africa." The report on kidnapping in the Niger Delta. He said, "As a matter of fact, the activities of a number of some foreign correspondents in Nigeria when the Nigerian security agencies have been investigating." A CNN spokesman was in Atlanta said: "We stand by the story and we refute the allegations." Some Nigerian journalists have been arrested in past months over political sensitive meeting international criticism, but the by Nigeria's state security agencies of foreign reporters being an issue continues with the authorities.

Reuters

New bird flu cases in S. Korea, Pakistan

SEOUL/ISLAMABAD—Pakistan and South Korea reported new bird flu cases in poultry on Saturday, underlining findings by the World Health Organization that migratory birds can spread the virus over vast distances. Pakistan's Minister for Food, Agriculture and Livestock Sardar Yar Muhammad Dogar said that tests on dead birds found in the northwestern province of Peshawar had confirmed the presence of the H5N1 strain of the virus. Dogar said that the birds had died in the Khyber Agency, which borders Afghanistan. Pakistan has had two human deaths from bird flu, the most recent in December. South Korea said on Saturday that it had found the virus in dead wild ducks. Chinese media said that quarantine measures had been put in place to control the outbreak.

Reuters

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Roddick serve grabs Davis Cup spotlight /A24

Sunday SPORTS

Editor Teddyboy S. Molondres

- Hot Raptors edge Lakers; Melo, Josh in All-Stars /A24

Que two off lead with 68; Miñoza four behind

QUE: Two eagles

MIÑOZA: Rally

KUALA LUMPUR—IT WAS ANGELO Que's turn to shine Saturday as the 2006 Mercuries Open champion, outshining five in the last six holes, shot a four-under-par 68 and found himself just two strokes off the third-round lead in the $1.25 million Maybank Malaysian Open.

Que had two eagles and a birdie to cap a four under 32 on the back side and advanced from 20th place to a tie for second at 5-under 211 with Mexico's Ismael Leon (72) and Thai Prom Meesawat (70).

Ricardo Gonzalez of Argentina (69) and Marcus Higley of England (70) emerged new front-runners with 7-under 209 totals while four players were deadlocked at 4-under 212 to set the stage for a mad scramble for top honors in this event jointly sanctioned by the Asian Tour and European Tour.

Striking distance

Philippine Open champion Frankie Miñoza also stayed within striking distance at 3-under 213 as he rallied with a 71 after gunning down birdies on the 13th, 15th and 18th holes.

And RP Open runner-up Ronald Regalado, the third Filipino who made it to the weekend play, secured himself of another good payday by shrinking to a tie for 22nd place with a 76 for a 1-under 215 total.

Que, who had earlier rounds of 70-74, cagily shot par 5 11th and the par 4 17th to smother a birdie on No. 18 as he produced one of the day's heroics, tying 6th at the Saujana Golf and Country Club.

Also shooting 6th were Peter Hedblom of Sweden (2-12), Ignacio Garrido of Spain (213) and Dewy Pikaahu of Australia (214).

The teenager Chinnarat Phadungsil, who grabbed the second-round lead with a 67, had 6-more-stroke decline with a 77 and dropped to a tie for 23rd at 216.

Biggest stars

Meanwhile, Lee Westwood praised the highest placed among the biggest stars in the field as he stood at even par 216 after a 71. Fellow Ryder Cupper Darren Clarke of Northern Ireland was at 217 after another 71.

Thomas Bjorn of Denmark had a 79 for 22-9 while 2005 US Open champion Michael Campbell of New Zealand was among the contenders at 223 after a 76.

Asian Tour Story

DAVIS CUP DOUBLES

Mamiit, Taino give RP crucial 2-1 cushion

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINES' BIGGEST GUNS JUST STOPPED A MAJOR foreign scare.

Battling in the Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Group II tie at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center, the ranked 89 duo tandem of Cecil Mamiit and Eric Taino came back from an opening set loss to register the doubles match yesterday and push the host country within a win of clinching the three-day duel against Pakistan.

TAINO

Mamiit and Taino, who captured a bronze medal in the men's doubles of last year's Asian Games, prevailed 1-7, 6-4, 6-1, 6-3 over Aqeel Khan and Aisam-Ul-Haq Qureshi to give the Filipinos a 2-1 lead going into today's reverse singles.

The two were tasked to play doubles over fellow country mate Treat Conrad Huey after splitting their opening singles last Friday.

"We got off to a slow start and got frustrated in the process," admitted Taino in front of the crowd that stayed on for the encore! interview. "But Cecil managed to get us right back into the match and hopefully he can come up with a victory tomorrow."

Mamiit hopes to secure the tie against Aqeel Khan in the first reverse singles today at 10 a.m., followed by Taino's match against Aisam Khan.

Aqeel beat Taino in four sets Friday to give Pakistan a 1-1 tie after Mamiit had downed Hon Sheed for the Filipinos' opening point.

"I love drama. I have watched many Filipino movies here," joked Mamiit about his chances in this morning's match. "Not seriously. I [simply] love to get a revenge for him."

"He [Aqeel Khan] can run the whole weight of the team," said JP team playing captain Mario Mias. "I hope Billy, we can double it and (be first singles) tomorrow (Today)."

The winners of the tie will play against the survivor of the New Zealand-Pacific Oceania duel in the second round in April.

The Filipinos blew a 5-3-1 lead in the first set and labored for two hours and 40 minutes before taking the pivotal doubles match against the Pakistanis, who were relegated from Group I.

Capitalizing on Mamiit's big serves and Taino's superb net play, the Filipinos dominated in the second set and then pounced on their rivals to easily wrap up the third set.

Mamiit broke into his first match-point opportunity of the tie in the fourth when victory was at hand in the fourth set and served out the match with a love game.

CECIL Mamiit prepares to launch a backhand to the Pakistani side of the court in yesterday's doubles match in the Davis Cup.

Give your HEART'S desire...
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All the sports you play!

'Patintero' helps keep UE fencers sharp

By Jasmine W. Paya

WHETHER on the street or in the gym, UE fencers (from left) Bonifacio Jacinto, Mary Rose Alfonso, Junko Jurao and Mike Gutierrez are always ready to give their best.

NORTHEASTERN LUZON PACIFIC COASTAL SERVICES INC.

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND/OR BID

Beermen expect tougher Game 2 vs Kings tonight

SAN MIGUEL'S Glenn Capacio hopes Jaypee Mendoza's brand will pick up his game tonight against LA Toronto and the San Miguel Beermen

GENE TORY Lacuesta Collected
7 p.m. — GenSport vs Sunerge Centro

GOLF THOUGH THE SERIES OPENER may have been, no one believes that Barangay Elizalde will be easy picking for the rest of the Talk 'N Text Philippines Cup title series.

San Miguel coach Chot Reyes, most of all.

"I certainly did not expect the (winning) margin to be this big," Reyes said, moments after the 113-89 Game 1 victory Friday night at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao, where a pro Elizalde gallery went home dumbfounded.

"But it [wins] wasn't easy by any means. Giesbrecht is such a more heartier team than we expect. Hats to some back hacker (for Game 2)," he added.

Practically nothing went Elizalde's way from the get-go as the Kings rushed by 20 points in the first half to lose in a hostile manner.

Only Mark Caguioa and Rudy Hatfield played true to form.

But they couldn't stop the San Miguel juggernaut from crushing the rest of the Kings with new acquisition Carlos Bagtas leading the way and Danny Seigle contributing an all-around.

Bagtas notched the Kings with steady jumping, hitting four triples in the first half alone on the way to 17 points, his best performance in a San Miguel uniform.

"On the terms against [Sal] Ball [they] played him [Bagtas] extremely well defensively," Reyes said. "I expected him to play well, but not this well. He gave us a lift tonight."

San Miguel, which is looking to win a leading 10th PBA title, dominated every facet of the game and was the more aggressive team outside of it as Jay-Jay Helterbrand was effectively shut down.

And save one) help his scouts if Eric Harris finally get over some minutes in the 7 p.m. game at the Araneta Coliseum.

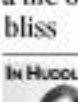
"We all owe him doing the warm-ups tonight (Game 1)," Reyes said of Monk, who has been out since the Kings' semifinal series opposite Talk 'N Text.

Giesbrecht, which got to the Finals by ousting the Phone Pals, 4-2, could terminate a healthy Monk as Glenn Penn and Reinhold Mikhicat threw their weight in unity with Hatfield the only big man that was a factor for the Kings.

The Kings never got close to overhauling their 22-point deficit, dropping it to 11 on three occasions in the fourth. But it was clear that San Miguel already had the measure for the win.

As it stands now, the league will host a mini-recess before the game featuring local band Imagistik. Missing it: Camilla

Not all a life of PBA bliss



IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

ALTHOUGH SHE looked as much bewildered and more sophisticated, I immediately recognized Gina Anayiotos when I bumped into her at the taping of the "Mom's" show over QTV recently.

Gina and she used her two children are doing very well, the bitter and unwelcome past with former superhusband Nelson Anayiotos all behind her.

Jerold Yim-ost is now 17 going on 18 next month, and he is in his first high at the La Salle Greenhills. He is 6-1 and plays varsity basketball," Gina said.

When I heard the name, the image of a little boy immediately came to mind. A cute little boy with a round face, round eyes and very sandy hair.

It was hard to believe that the young man dressed in a business suit in the photo Gina was showing me was this little boy.

"He's all grown up. Her younger sister Kim Arielle, is now 13 and studies at Poveda," she said.

Before we parted, Gina handed me a business card.

"I'm now using my maiden name," she said, making that I was making a big was long. "Gina Lucas, Coordinator, Interior design consultant," the card read.

"Our marriage has been annulled," she replied in answer to my questioning gaze.

Yes, she has not remarried. She is has been raising her two children, trying hard to give them a good life. She works as a production set designer of the program, where I was guesting, and other television programs.

"Nelson plays for the Pagodian Epicurean team in the WBC. He comes to visit the children regularly," she said with absolutely no trace of bitterness in her voice. She looked happy.

Nelson, on the other hand, has long been separated from the third party that had caused the breakup of his marriage to Gina.

Only recently, player agent Danny Ingreso and I were noting with some manner of alarm the rising incidence of separation among PBA players, past and present.

Many are of public knowledge: In addition to Nelson and Gina, Kenneth and Teresa Duremdes, Jiel and Elaine Jawal, Sergel and Mitch Mendoza, Mio and Marissa Hernandez, Benjie Paras and Jackie Forster, Ato and Ella Agustin, Yves Dignadice and Maita Morris, to name some.

Among the more active ones, there's the tall evasive owner and the youngish shooter from a team that was severely disqualified from the finals. Surely they would not want to be identified.

There's one or two in every team, according to Danny who knows almost all the family secrets.

The players has changed somewhat but save those three statistics were tallied after the third game of the 2000-2007 Talk 'N Text PBA Philippine Cup, but just to give you an idea of how the PBA MVP statistical race will go at the end of the conference, here are the top 10 players at that time:

Barangay Ginebra's Mark Caguioa leads the pack with an average of 38.7 statistical points, followed by San Miguel Beer's Danny Seigle with 37.6 and Ginebra's Rudy Hatfield with 34.6. Alaska's Willie Miller remains fourth with 30.9 SPs, Sta. Lucia's Kelly Nabong with 30.6, Air 21's Paredesoff Bobby Raymundo 30th with 33.3, Talk 'N Text's Ato Tenorio seventh with 31.5, Ginebra's Jaypee Helterbrand eighth with 30.9, his teammate Eric Menk ninth with 30.8, and Air 21's Randolf de Ocampo 10th with 30.6 SPs.

Stay the BPA may seem strange and small to you, but according to PBA head statistician Fidel Marcaida, the PBA commissioner's office has recently instituted some changes in the selection of the annual MVP and other awards. "It will really reflect the players' value and improve on the selection of individual performance awardees."

In the Rookie of the Year race, after the third semifinal game, Rookie Rudy Hatfield is nominated to the Top 5 with 33.3 SPs, followed by Air 21's Rowind Santos with 29.5, Welcoat's Jay R. Reyes, with 28.2, San Miguel Beer's JA Tenorio , with 18.1, Welcoat's Jonchet Calimag with 18.2, Coney's Chris Pacaca with 17.8, SMB's Rudy Enjoying nominee

Orcollo somewhat rusty for duel vs Yang

A THREE-PAGE SPREAD FROM YOUR midweek play may tempt Jayson Dioneda Orcollo to challenge Taiwanese Yang Chin-chun to the three-out-of-five duel slated April 13-15 at the Gateway Mall in Cebu, Quezon City.

Orcollo, the reigning World Pool League titlist and acknowledged as the Philippine billiard treasure going big, has not played competitively since the All-Japan 9-Ball Open in Osaka, Japan, last Jan. 26.

"Tennis is rusty," said Orcollo's manager Jerry Macinas. "The way I assessed him now, he is not in a 100-percent fighting form, maybe just 60 (percent)."

"Well, that's the normal tendency if you're not playing in tournaments," said Macinas. "He (Orcollo) is also adjusting to his new cue stick."

Yang, meanwhile, has competed in a lot of tournaments and game matches in Chinese Taipei as part of his preparation for his first-ever encounter with Orcollo in the event co-organized by the Bagis Promotions of Macinas and the Modernstar Enterprises of Ramon Tuason and presented by Solar Sports.

The event is billed as "Golden Duel: Dejan Pereira's Bang vs Orcollo... it's all about the money...and more".

Yang's home active status is expected to negate Orcollo's hometown advantage in the race-to-50 marathon match supported by Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte, and the city council led by majority floor leader Atty. Ernie.

"But I'm still confident that come April 13, Tennis will be in tiptop form," said Macinas. "He has promised that he won't let the country down, he will be ready for Yang."

Orcollo has been practicing everyday going 50 to 75 racks per session," added Macinas.

Orcollo and Yang, both 28 years old, will depete for $10,000 (about P490,000) winner's purse at stake in the event.

Marlon Bernardino, contributor

ORCOLLO: Thirty-week break.

Pacman pool event draws Negros bets

THE NEGROS BILLIARD ZEBELE JOHNNY Ong Masters Deception 36-ball Boomers Pebble on the 8th 20-20 to forward Bobbie City.

Offering a total purse of P900,000, the event, presented by the Boomers, will see dozens top players from Mindanao as well as the Visayas.

Christopher Palmes, manager and coach of Negros Billiard Stable, said his players are joining the event mainly for exposure.

"I believe (Mark) Bautista's join the tournament not only because of the prize, but for them to be more competitive," said Palmes, the 2008 Standard World handicapping champion.

The Negros Billiard Stable is counting for 16 entered our players vault the ultimate goal of producing a champion from the region.

"Angeles City Dominguez, San Efren 'Bata' Reyes, Cabagnot, Isabelo, Jess Alfaro Bagabaon and Antonio Alcano had already given pride to its hometowns Columbio, Laguna," said Palmes. "We have many good-skilled players here and I think one of them will bring honor to the cited town."

Cagayan de Oro pro Efren 'Bata' Reyes, Antonio Gomez, Pacific Daroang and Filipino coaches Jerry Wilson.

The 48-year-old Gonzales from Isabela, Negros Occidental is a silver medalist in the 2002 Southeast Asian Games in contact billiards and bronze medalist in 9-ball in the 2005 Southeast Asian Games, eighth in the 2006 Doha Asian Games in English billiard.

Dumaug, who hails from South Cotabato, was champion of the 2005 Negros Open and 2005 Iloilo 10-ball won the landed in the top 10 in the Solar Sports FLV Ball Open and top 6 in the 2006 Bill Open 9-ball in Indonesia. He beat SEA top player Taj Mandal and former world rank chief champion Indian Ishia Pereira in money game play and won.

Meanwhile, Team Sarcidol City won the 2006 Governor's Cup Laguna Open champion and 2005 Sta Padre Illustrisimo winners He is making his international debut next month in Japan.

Other member of the team are Ricky Zerna, Jonah Lorenzo, Ismael Lorenzo, Antero Pedillera, Noel Garza, Jolly Villegas, Terence Gador and Rafael Villanueva.

Leo Ilao Corona, winner of the just-concluded 9-ball Grand Derby and Isabelo "Boy Samson" Lasat are also MBC members, but are not playing in Bernabe's billiard tournament being members of the national team. Another 7000 players, listed Nota, are expected to be considering in Cebu.

The 9000 players are also set to compete in the 2nd BSP Sabbatical Pool Championships slated March 26-31 at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Marlon Bernardino, contributor

HARBOUR Centre's Allan Gamboa penetrates the defense put up by Tayuta Dito (Dennis Dua-left) and Patrick Cabahug in their game yesterday. ROGER PINGOL

Harbour Centre gains PBL finals

By Jasmine W. Payo

HARBOUR CENTRE EXPLODED FROM THE THREE-POINT AREA in the final quarter to overwhelm Tayuta Dito, 92-81, yesterday and seal a showdown with Bigtoo PCU for the PBL Silver Cup championship at the Dilimanis College Sports Center starting Tuesday.

Clare Lauzon, Edwin Asoro and Jonathan Fernandez powered the Harbour Centre in a fourth-quarter run that finally doomed the Sparks in their semi-finals series match.

Harbour Centre will be shooting for its second straight crown in another best-of-five series against Bigtoo PCU which annexed the first Hindu berth by wrapping up its semifinal series versus Hind and Hiro, 3-1, last Wednesday.

"I just told them that if we play good defense, offense will follow," said Harbour Centre coach Jorge Gallent. "If Clare plays well, the rest just step up. The MJ boys (Asoro and Fernandez) also did good."

Lauzon, starting to all three wins by the first Masters to the series, shot 18 points in the final quarter for a 12-point total (his most on top of 4 rebounds and 3 assists).

Fernandez, who shot all of his eight markers in the last seven minutes, sparked Harbour Centre's outburst with a triple and a three-point play for a 64-61 lead.

Asoro continued the charge by burying two more cups in a row that pushed the Port Masters ahead by nine, 73-64, at the 4:33 mark.

HARBOUR CENTRE 92
Lauzon 18, Asoro 17, Jones 15, Dela Cruz 11, Fernandez 8, Dilagan 6, Lopez 4, Gan 4, Ribano 0, Gotang 0

TAYUTA DITO 81 — Ong 19, Cabahug 14, Alano 13, Sabalones 8, Alano II, Jose 6, Arenas 5, Jao 5, Rodriguez 4, Santos 2, Asoro 2

Lauzon followed it up with another triple and three shortly after a Clarence Carandi foul for a 70-60 spread heading into the final three minutes.

Allan Gamboa, who averages 6.6 points in three 12-minutes of action, knocked in 10 markers in a 7-of-8 shooting in the first half before cooling down in the closing quarters.

Carandi and Marvin Ortigueza paced the Port Masters early for a 13-14 edge in the first quarter.

The 6-foot-5 Gamboa continued to heat up in the next quarter and even hit a pair of trays in a 10-0 run that gave the Port Masters their biggest lead of the first half, 31-22.

Ex-pro Ricky Santos, who joined the Sparks to their final elimination game, was thrown out at the 2:07 mark in the second quarter for unsportsmanlike conduct.

The scores:

SPORTSWATCH

NBN-4 airs PSA Annual Awards tonight

THE IMG-PSA ANNUAL AWARDS NIGHT, BE SEEN ON TV TONIGHT AT 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. over NBN-4 Channel 4. The awards night is a highlight of the Philippine sports year, made 2006 a memorable one. It was timed at the Centennial year of the 1906 Intl. Olympics. On Jan. 14, Boxing icon Manny Pacquiao showed stellar talking with Athletic legend Elma "Nida" Muros. World Short champion Rom Adducru, Asian World champion Jeanette Wilson, Muros and Olympian Lydia de Vega-Mercado-Pacis, Asian Athletic Coach Delfin and Marie Caballero are seen at the Athlete of The Year award. Sixty other sports figures and personalities were honored during the affair.

CKSC sweeps Tiong Lian clinic

JOHN DECEDUE GOT GOOD SUPPORT FROM TEAMMATES AS HE SCORED 20 POINTS AND GRABBED 12 REBOUNDS AND DOLED out 7 assists to lead Chiong Kai Shek College to a 86-47 win over St. Jude High School and complete a sweep of the elimination round of the 2nd Metro Manila Young Lions Basketball Association at the CKSC Sports Complex. The Dragons posted an 8-0 slate and earned twice-to-beat duties that quadruple-time. All 11 first quarter scorers came from CKSC, each time threatened and rounded to the ninth straight win in as many games. Terrence Lam and Brodie Ng contributed 14 points apiece and another Chua dropped in 10. With the sweep, the Dragons are now in the driver's seat for awarding the winner of St. Jude-Grace Christian High School playoff.

Pascual tops Makati International Derby

LIMAN BALDEO COOKED EVERYBODY ELSE IN SWEARING FIELD TO BE TOURNAMENT Makati International All Cook Super Derby and Friday at the Makati Coliseum when Liman Baldeo, pressed Ryan Pascual, Jr. and Jeremy Mascarinas of Sampan Jal MD 9 Oil and Team Super Jibay MD Lubes runners up added 3 points while Pascual's Rotary Philip Dimaguiao and Edmund Nuesa, Gov. Jose Reyes, Gregorio Araneta, Jose Antonio and Gov. Ric Puyat, Dita Mey Reyes, Jr Whitaker, Ted Mary Rodriguez and Rotarian Ricky Dimaguiao, Jr. rounded out the Top 10. The Derby, it made debuts, a joint production of Richard Sabio and Gov. Benjy Salgado, exhibit at the Makati Coliseum tomorrow with P500,000 in guaranteed prize.

3 champs join Religon's 'Largaban'

FIVE CONTESTS CHAMPIONS PLEDGED THEIR SERVICES EACH TO DEFENDING HE the 2007 Largaban 10-mile derby on Feb. 22, 24, 26 and 28 at the Philippine Village. Caraballo Hotel Teddy Lopez attended to submit the entry, then each formed and pegged an entry fee of P1,000 for a guaranteed prize of P5 million. The hottest entry there is Lopez himself who home is based in Cagayan de Oro. Teddy Caraballo is 3-0 in Largaban and their victories in the MMT 17th Anniversary 5-mile derby on Wednesday, Intercharter Cebu Gallaher Dry Mix Affiliate 10% and William Chia MVP Blended. Name Feed Dylan L. Herman Dalaba and Dan Mad and lawyer Ariel Caballo-Ordaly Rivera, current team the Largaban like. Except for the Caraballo, owner of several big derby titles, the four other co-champions were first time major derby winners.

Tagaytay to defend Asian chess title

By Ray Lazo

A VIRTUALLY NEW TAGAYTAY CITY TEAM will defend its hard-earned crown in the 19th Asian Chess Championship slated March 1-9 in Teheran, Iran.

Only Grandmaster Rogelio "Joey" Antonio remains from the team that topped competition in China on the tie-break for the 8 to be the 2004 edition of the event held at the Tagaytay International Convention Center.

Joining Antonio, who received Board 2 behind GM Eugene Torre in 2005, are GM Mark Bernejo and International Master Wesley So and Oliver Dimakiling.

Bernejo, the country's highest rated player, will take over Torre's place. The 13-year-old So, set the other board, will now Board 2 in lieu of GM Nong Villamayor while Dimakiling will man Board 4 in lieu of IM Ronald Dalida.

IM Jayson Gonzales completed the Tagaytay City squad which made history as the first local team to win the Asian inter-club once in its inception in 1979.

ANTONIO

PARAGUA

SO

DIMAKILING

Dimakiling replaced GM Nelson Mariano, who is reportedly embarking on a coaching stint in Singapore.

National Chess Federation of the Philippines secretary-general and Tagaytay City Mayor Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino, who will handroll the Filipinos' Teheran stint, said he expects his wards to go all-out in defending the title they won over 28 teams from 15 countries.

"Our players will be playing in a different environment and for sure the other teams will be after us being the defending champion," said Tolentino. "But I'm confident that they're going to give it their best shot every game."

Tolentino has tapped SGOP Director Willie Alatiro to be the head of delegation and team captain.

"Earlier this set up was reserved, all the players will have to be on their toes," said Alatiro. "Nobody can afford to relax."

Tagaytay City is expected to face stiff challenge from teams from China, India, Malaysia, Indonesia and the former Soviet Republics, which will be represented by their key cities.

Swimming from usual practice, no reserve player will go to Tehran, where So and Dimakiling will try to nail their second GM norms.

Two days of championship rounds will be staged at Antares Coliseum on March 22 and 23. For inquiries, call 8915 6076/87 Dianne Salgado.

The NPCA, an umbrella organization of major basketball breeders association from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, recently staged the 2006 National Bullstag 9-ring derby which drew an incredible 1,373 entries.

Co-champions in the 2006 Bullstag were Gen. jess Augusto of Cavite, Bobby Sherwood of Manila and Bobby Sui of Davao.

National Bullstag series starts March 5

THE 2007 NATIONAL BULLSTAG DERby, a yearly undertaking of the National Ordenanzas and Cumarbard Breeders (NPCA) will be staged in 15 different cockpit nationwide, beginning on March 5.

NPCA president Ronny Palmares said yesterday that only those gamefowl with 2006 "Bullstag" assignments and weight limited of 1.8 kg to 2.3 kg will be accepted.

Last year's solo champion, Wing Asia Cone of El Sur, heads the top field of participance who will gun for the guaranteed price of P3 million.

Separate elimination rounds (4-cock) are lined up at the Bacolod Cockpit (March 5); Puerto Princesa Coliseum (March 9), Malvar Sports Center and Alexandria Sports Coliseum (March 10); Aurao Cockpit (March 12); Negros Coliseum (March 14); Panique Coliseum (March 17); Agusan Coliseum, Talisay Double Sports Complex and Iloilo Coliseum (March 18); Davao Cockpit (Mar. 17); Tuao Mega Cockpit (March 18) and Antares Coliseum (March 24).

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Co-champions in the 2006 Bullstag were Gen. jess Augusto of Cavite, Bobby Sherwood of Manila and Bobby Sui of Davao.

NCAA CHAMPIONS! The San Beda Red Lions captured their sixth straight National Collegiate Athletic Association men's football title by beating the PCU Dolphins, 1-0. The Lions, who posted a 6-0 win-loss card, received the trophy and medals from incoming NCAA Policy Board president, Dr. Vincent K. Estrella.

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ROLL OVER, RED

Celtics pride takes another hit

LIVING faces are now a staple at the Celtics bench.

BOSTON—THIS IS NOT THE TEAM that late legendary coach and manager Red Auerbach had in mind.

The Boston Celtics slipped to a franchise record 17th straight defeat with a 92-78 loss to the New Jersey Nets on Friday, on a day when the struggling team welcomed back Paul Pierce after a long injury layoff.

Vince Carter scored 23 points for the Nets, who never trailed, as the Celtics shot just 35 percent from the field in having their 17th straight home game.

Pierce missed 24 games with a severe sprain in his left foot and then an inflamed elbow as Boston went 2-22 without him in the line-up.

He landed rusty on his return, shooting just 4-for-16 for nine points, with seven of them coming in the fourth quarter when the game was already out of reach.

"I missed a couple of lay-ups, stuff that I usually make," Pierce told reporters.

Pierce's return was somewhat of a surprise, as he was expected to remain on the sidelines until after next week's All-Star Game.

New Jersey's Jason Kidd, who had 13 points, nine assists and eight rebounds, believes Pierce's return will eventually help the Celtics recover from their dreadful run.

"Sometimes your captains come back, you play with more energy," Kidd said. "This is a tough learning experience for them, but in the long run it will make them better."

Marcus Williams added 17 points for the Nets (24-27), who won their second straight after a four-game losing streak.

Sebastian Telfair led Boston with 21 points, while Al Jefferson scored 15 points and banded down 17 rebounds. *Reuters*

Hot Raptors edge Lakers

TORONTO—CHRIS BOSH had 29 points and 11 rebounds, Kobe Bryant missed a potential tying 3-pointer in the final seconds and the Toronto Raptors won their season-high fifth straight, 96-92 over the Los Angeles Lakers on Friday.

Anthony Parker added 18 points and Andrea Bargnani had 14 for the Atlantic Division-leading Raptors, who have won seven straight at home and 14 of 15 overall.

Bryant scored 25 points for the Lakers, who dropped to 3-5 on their eight-game road trip.

Bosh's layup gave Toronto an 86-75 lead with 5:41 left, but the Lakers tied it. Kwame Brown's 3-point play put Los Angeles ahead, 90-89, with 1:11 to go.

After making 10 shots in the last two minutes, the Raptors went up 93-91 with 11 seconds left following free throws by Bosh and Anthony Parker.

Bryant hiked up Jorge Garbajosa before putting up a shot from top of the key, but the ball hit off the rim. Bosh grabbed the rebound with 9.2 seconds left and made one of two free throws.

In other games, it was Denver 103, Indiana 93; Orlando 108, San Antonio 100; LA Clippers 90, Philadelphia 89; Portland 106, Charlotte 100; OT; New Jersey 92, Boston 78; Cleveland 103, Miami 79; Memphis 120, Minnesota 97; OT; Dallas 95, Sacramento 74; Atlanta 118, Phoenix 111; Golden State 122, Chicago 121.

In Indianapolis, Carmelo Anthony celebrated his late addition to the West's Conference All-Star team by scoring his 30th point, and Denver stopped a three-game skid.

Anthony, added to the squad by commissioner David Stern as an injury replacement earlier in the day, shot 13-for-29 from the field and 12-for-13 from the free-throw line. Eduardo Najera added 18 points for the Nuggets, who played without injured starters Adrien Iverson and Marcus Camby.

Mike Dunleavy scored a season-high 25 points and grabbed 11 rebounds. Stanley Granger added 19 points for the Pacers, who lost their third straight home game.

In Orlando, Florida, Dwight Howard heaped high to thank a long rebounds following Reggie Miller's 3-point play, as the Magic and Orlando edged San Antonio in half-a-three-game losing streak.

Howard had 19 points and hauled his season-to-season-high 21 for the Magic, who rallied from an 18-point deficit. Rookie JJ Redick had a season-high 15.

Tim Duncan led the Spurs with 24 points, but was unable to stop Howard's late in the final second. Brent Barry had 21 points and Michael Finley scored 16 for San Antonio.

In Cleveland, LeBron James waited a mid-scoring slump with 29 points and Cleveland did a better job containing Miami's Dwyane Wade in snapping the Heat's five-game winning streak.

James had averaged just 17.7 points—almost nine under his average—in the past four games. But going head to head against his good friend Wade brought out the best in James, who scored 16 points after halftime and added seven rebounds and six assists.

Wade finished with 27 points, but never got a chance to take over the way he did a week ago when he outscored Cleveland 20-21 in the fourth quarter and had 41 points in Miami's 92-89 win.

Zydrunas Ilgauskas scored 15 points, added a career-high six assists and made the game's biggest defensive play on Wade in the fourth when the Cavs pulled away.

In Memphis, Tennessee, Rudy Gay scored 19 points, including seven in overtime, to help Memphis snap a four-game losing streak and send Minnesota to its 10th loss in six games.

In Phoenix, former Sun Joe Johnson scored 17 of his 32 points in the fourth quarter to lead Atlanta to victory over a Phoenix team missing Steve Nash. *AP*

CLEVELAND Cavaliers coach Mike Brown (left) looks on as Miami Heat defender Alonzo Mourning

Stern gives Melo, Josh All-Star game slots

NEW YORK—NBA LEADING SCORER Carmelo Anthony was picked by commissioner David Stern on Friday as an injury replacement and will make his Oct. 98 first game appearance on Feb. 18 in Las Vegas.

Stern also added Dallas Mavericks forward Josh Howard to the Western Conference team. He needed to replace Houston center Yao Ming and Utah forward Carlos Boozer, who will be unable to play because of injuries.

Anthony averages an NBA-high 28.8 points, but wasn't voted in by the fans and then wasn't chosen as a reserve by Mike coaches. He was undoubtedly hurt by missing 15 games when Stern suspended him for his role in the brawl at Madison Square Garden in December.

ANTHONY

Stern said he would not consider Anthony's penalty when deciding whether to consider him for a replacement spot.

Anthony, who is averaging 28.6 points and 7.3 rebounds.

Stern may still have one more pick to make. Denver's Allen Iverson, bothered by a sprained ankle, has talked recently of skipping the game if necessary.

Iverson's fans, who, at Utah's Deron Williams would be the likely candidates if another guard is needed.

West coach Mike D'Antoni of Phoenix will choose a replacement for the in the West starting lineup. *AP*

NBA TODAY (MANILA TIME)
8:30 a.m. — Grizzlies at Jazz
(replay) 10:45 a.m. ABS-CBN 2

Roddick serve, Russia grab spotlight

Safin hands defending champs 2-0 Davis Cup edge vs Chile

LA SERENA, CHILE—FORMER WORLD NO. 1 Elena Safin and injury-hastened Igor Andreev put Russia's Davis Cup defense off to a flying start on Friday against Chile.

And at about the same time, Andy Roddick's serve was making headlines elsewhere.

Safin eased to a 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 victory over Nicolas Massu in their World Group first round tie while Andreev subdued with a knee injury last year, defeated Australian Open finalist Fernando Gonzalez, 6-0, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2.

Chile must now win Saturday's doubles to keep their 13-match home tie winning streak alive.

Massu had never previously lost a Davis Cup singles rubber in Chile but Safin, who ended Sweden's reign as the Davis Cup defense off to a flying start on Friday against Chile.

"I thought the game would be much tougher. Massu is a tough opponent and I think it will come down to who would take them first."

Massu admitted he had been outclassed.

"Maria played very well. I just could not match his level," said the Chilean, the Olympic Games champion.

"Today I played against a great champion."

In Amsterdam, Czech Republic Coach President Jiri Vanek's bodyguards are trained to dive in front of bullets to ensure his safety. But apparently that does not apply to tennis balls as well.

Klizan, sitting in the front row of the Czech Republic's Davis Cup tie against the United States, was on the receiving end of a serve from Andy Roddick, winner of the fastest serve in the game today.

Roddick's blast bounced up and hit Klizan, an avid tennis player himself, in the chest. The president was unhurt in the incident. Roddick played on unaware.

"I didn't notice that," Roddick said, smiling when told about the incident.

"But I said in warm-up that most of the time, there's a net behind the wall and I saw that this net [around debris] here one, so someone might be dodging some tennis balls today. But I promise you that it was nothing personal."

Roddick, who holds the record for the fastest serve at 247.0 kmh went on to beat Czech Jan Hernych in the fourth, 6-4, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3.

Tomas Berdych downed James Blake, 6-1, 3-6, 7-5, 7-5, to level that tie. *AP, AFP, Reuters*

RUSSIA'S Marat Safin slams a return to Chile's Nicolas Massu.

Furyk shares Pebble lead with Mickelson

PEBBLE BEACH, CALIFORNIA—Two-time champion Phil Mickelson rallied on a 5-under 67 to get a share of the lead with Jim Furyk at the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am on Friday.

Mickelson had to cope only with the cold and rain—but not much wind—which made the venerable Pebble Beach course tame.

"It was a good day. We got a pretty good draw," Mickelson said. "It was a little windy the last three or four holes, but I'm not going to complain. We had a great day to take advantage of testing."

He had chances to score even lower, but three straight bogies on the back nine, and a double-par end drive, he birdie on the par-5 18th enabled him to catch Furyk and reach 13-under 131.

Furyk also capitalized in on the flags, dropping two-foot of flapping what he arrived at single 148, expressly after setting a forecast of 13 right 24 lights wind and heavy rain. The rain was here and light, and he birdied all but one of the par 5s on his way to 68.

"I think we got out of it pretty good today," Furyk said. "Hoping for the same tomorrow."

That gave the AMC Pebble Beach National Pro-Am a good 1-2 punch of two top players on the season-high, air-ranked players in the field.

Furyk (No. 2) and Mickelson (No. 6) had a three-shot lead over rookie John Mallinger and Kevin Sutherland, who turned in the best round of the drawy afternoon by firing off 66 to be in a tie for Spyglass Hill.

Sutherland thought briefly about the course record of 62 at Spyglass, but long enough to snap-hook his 3-wood into the trees and out of play on the par-5 seventh. He rebounded with a two-stroke penalty, reached the green in two, escaped with a bogey and didn't let one bad hole take away from his round.

"Spyglass is one of my favorite courses in the world," said Sutherland, who has played it countless times dating to his amateur days. "I'll never stop playing those Pebble Beach, but a 63 was not the score I was thinking about when I teed off."

Sutherland plays his best golf on the LET Tour. Count... his only victory was the 2000 Accenture Match Play Championship at La Costa...and was in the final group two weeks ago at Torrey Pines until he finished in a tie for 14th. *AP*

IN THIS ISSUE

- Putting people on the road to success /B4
- Souvenirs that make your life sweeter/B3

Sunday BIZ

Business/Features Editor Margie Quiroga-Espino

Coping with the big chill

Solution is well-timed planting strategy with adoption of plants resistant to frost

WATER THERAPY: Farmers have learned that washing off ice from their vegetables is one way of combating low temperatures that occasionally destroy their harvests. Cold-weather alliances up traders's covering their vegetables.

ATOK, BENGUET—FOUR mountaineering enthusiasts from Baguio City needed to huddle together inside a tent at the summit of Mt. Pulag from Jan. 29 to Feb. 2, the period when tem

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Pride: A leader's greatest problem

PULL A $10-BILL FROM YOUR POCKET, and you will see the face of Alexander Hamilton on the front.

By merit of his accomplishments, Hamilton should be one of the United States' greatest national heroes. Considered his contributions to America:

- Revolutionary War hero
- George Washington's chief of staff by age 22
- America's first Secretary of the Treasury
- Co-author of The Federalist Papers
- Creator of the Coast Guard
- Designer of the nation's banking and finance system
- Architect of a system of tax collection to bring revenue in the US Government
- Builder of the infrastructure for an industrial economy

Yet, despite displaying the greatest blend of legal, political and financial knowledge of the founding fathers, Hamilton does not rank among the foremost heroes of our country's history. **Why? Pride.**

Hamilton's self-importance and inability to take an insult alienated those around him and sabotaged his career. His ego literally killed him. For two years to patch up differences with fellow politicians, Aaron Burr, Hamilton was shot and killed by Burr in a duel at the age of 49.

Leading culprit

Before diving into the body of this lesson, let like to credit my friend Jane Ann Resnik, founder of LessonsLearned.com. Many of his thoughts resonate throughout this edition of *Biz*.

I agree with Steve when he suggests pride is the leading culprit of managerial ineffectiveness.

"There are many reasons managers fail. For some, the organization outgrows them. Others don't change with the times. Some spread themselves too thin and won't, long and hard but not smart. Many abandon the principles and disciplines that once made them great and never get back to them. I've make poor character choices.... But all these causes for management failure have their root in one common cause: Pride. In the discipline venues, pride is devastating. I'm not talking about the pride one has in their work or their accomplishments. I'm talking the pride that inflates your sense of self-worth and distorts your perspective of reality." — Jane Anderson

There are two kinds of pride, both good and bad. "Good pride" represents our dignity and self-respect. "Bad pride" is the deadly sin of superiority that exalts of arrogance and ignorance. When you look at the word pride, notice the middle letter is "i."

When you are full of pride on the inside, it makes you selfish, stubborn and overzealous with others.

Problems of pride

1. **Pride stops us from building a team.** Prideful leaders readily overuse "he-person leadership" and devalue the benefits of teamwork. They rely on their own prowess to solve problems and advance the organization. Blinded by their self-centeredness, arrogant leaders are unable to appreciate the strengths in others.

2. **Pride resists correction.**

Leaders who are amazed they lose everything don't bother about continuous growth. Their ego convinces them that they have arrived, and they quit searching for life's lessons in the people and circumstances around them.

3. **Pride closes our mind to feedback.**

Pride deafens us to the advice or warnings of those around us. As Stephen Covey has said, "It takes humility to seek feedback. It takes wisdom to understand it, analyze it and appropriately act on it." Without humility, we care about only one opinion — our own.

4. **Pride prevents us from admitting mistakes.**

The Duke of Wellington once taught by drew himself up to his full height and thundered: *no one of his staff officers,* "God knows I have many faults, but being wrong is not one of them!"

Pride won't allow for failure. The egotistical leader blames mistakes on others, justifies them as inevitable, or refuses to acknowledge them.

5. **Pride keeps us from making changes.**

Pride will cause leaders to pledge allegiance to the status quo rather than opening themselves to change; especially if the change idea is not in line with their own. Pride will justify living with broken systems rather than changing them.

6. **Pride encourages poor character choices.**

Because of arrogance, ignorance, or a little of both, leaders start taking shortcuts that compromise their values. In their conceit, they think they're above the rules or are too smart to get caught.

As flawed human beings, we all fall in to prideful traps from time to time. However, failing to recognize the error of pride and change course will doom our leadership.

Pride is a fatal character flaw and leaders that have legacies have their characters in tact. Leaders who feel so prone that pride will more demise. That's not a given, it's a guarantee. With pride, it's not a matter of "if" we will fall, but "when." There are no exceptions.

7. Pride hinders us from reaching our potential.

For leaders to reach full potential, they must be aware of areas in which they can improve. Unfortunately, pride blocks honest self-assessment and prevents leaders from finding the path to better performance.

8. **Pride destroys relationships.**

The opposite of loving others is not hating others but rather alienating ones oneself. When we become self-absorbed, we cut ourselves off from the enjoyment of the relationships in our life.

When I call, "The Celebration Principle" says that the true test of relationships is not how loyal we are when friends fail, but how thrilled we are when they succeed. If we can't get excited about the accomplishments of our friends, we had better do some soul-searching.

9. Pride distorts your perspective on reality

Constantly viewing life through the lens of selfish ambition colors a leader's outlook. Many problems in business are caused by the ego interfering with judgment. Choices that should be clear to the leader become clouded by an obsession with self-achievement.

Correcting the pride problem

1. **Recognize your pride**

"If anyone would like to acquire humility, I say, I think, tell him the first step. The first step is to realize that one is proud. And a bigish step, too. At least, nothing whatever can be done before it. I could conceive that I had completely overcome it; I should probably be proud of my humility." — Benjamin Franklin

2. **Express your gratitude**

"A proud man is seldom a grateful man, for he never thinks he gets as much as he deserves." — Tyrone Edwards

4. **Say you prayer**

"Lord, when I am wrong, make me be willing to change, and when I am right, make me easy to live with." — Anonymous

5. **Practice serving others**

"The high destiny of the individual is to serve rather than to rule" — Albert Einstein

6. **Learn to laugh at yourself**

"Blessed are they that laugh at themselves, they shall never cease to be entertained." — Chinese Proverb

For information on John Maxwell's in-house or public leadership or teamwork workshops, please e-mail us at *mxwell@pipeline.com* or call 813-2099-2732 and ask for Jon or Ding. Tom BARNHILL CEO is #532 (Smart to get daily SMS leadership insights from John Maxwell.

THE GREENHOUSE effects are welcome to Asin town in Benguet, because low temperatures often cause extensive damage to vegetable farms across the area.

AT 1524 Mayor Concepcion Bitoc says these cabbages suffered frost burns, because low temperatures caused vegetables with 3 millimeters of frozen moisture.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — NAMESAKES

answers on page B5

Coping with . . .

From page B1

pressures in Baguio and its environs dropped to between 9 and 10 degrees Celsius.

"It was so cold atop Pulag until that was the only way we could raise the temperature inside the tent to be tolerable] 6 degrees," one of the mountaineers tells the heavens.

The 2,900-meter high Mt. Pulag, Luzon's highest mountain and the second highest peak in the country, looms over the farmlands of this town, where vegetable farmers were seen early by four last week.

Reports of the frost damage on cabbages, peaches, carrots, radish, green peas and cut flower grown in Atok, Buguias, Kibungan and Mankayan towns had alarmed them: Manila consumers because most of the vegetable supply in the metropolis come from Benguet and parts of Cordillera.

Although strong flood were far from the horticulture industry. It is a frequent condition of farms here, says Mayor Concepcion Bitoc.

The farmers, she says, have learned to deal with the cold and the frost that visits the town, where the highest point of Luzon's highways system can be found at 2,255 meters (7,400 feet) above sea level.

Although last week's episode earned the town some media attention, the worst crisis hit local farmers in 2004 when frost destroyed at least 931 farms, Bitoc says.

Bitoc says farmers cope by washing away the ice with warm water early in the morning. The town is now known as a source of ready-to-harvest vegetables as such till be damaged.

Experts at the Benguet State University in La Trinidad town says a well-timed planting strategy continued with the adoption of plant varieties resistant to frost appears to be the most practical means of weeding frost damage on vegetables.

Dr. Rachel Maghi, director of BSU's Horticulture, Research and Training Institute, says farmers must understand that frost is the enemy of heat.

Maghi enumerates several measures which farmers could adopt against frost. The use of plant varieties resistant to frost, use of pesticides to kill aphids, a vector in the habit of not getting the farms in the afternoon.

He says farmers could also plant "low growing vegetables" or those plants whose frosts and leaves remain close to the ground soil when they mature.

"There is much heat in the soil and the plant's respiration habits, on growing low, could trap much of this heat that would discourage frost formation," he says.

Maghi also encourages farmers to use fertilizers rich in potassium, like chicken dung, as means to combat frost.

"Potassium [promotes] carbohydrate synthesis among plants, resulting in the production of heat," he says.

Watering the farms in the afternoon could also be effective against ice formation in plants, he says.

"Frost usually happens at night and early morning. But when the plants are wet, it will be difficult for water molecules to condense and become ice," he says.

Dr. Cirilito Lantoni, BSU's research director, says weather forecasting and the use of greenhouses could also mitigate vegetable damages during the cold months from December to February.

"Farmers must adjust their planting calendar so that their crops would not be harvestable during the cold months," he says. *EV Espiritu and Delmar Carlos, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

A SUFFERING Benguet farmer.

HUFFLED FARMER. La Trinidad farmers tending to rows of strawberry bushes wrap themselves in canvas sweaters and hats as mufflers when temperatures fall.

Souvenirs that make your life *sweeter*

Instead of a figurine, try giving away personalized chocolates

EDIBLE souvenirs have yet to gain popularity among Filipinos.

By Sharon Reiss-Marasella

GIVING SOUVENIRS DURING WEDdings, birthdays, baptisms and other special milestones have become part of the Filipino tradition.

Through the years, a lot of creative and personalized favors have become available to suit the customers' varied tastes.

But edible souvenirs have yet to gain popularity due mainly to Filipinos' preference for items that they can permanently display like candles and figurines.

But this did not hinder Sarah Ekanem Orozco, 29, from conceptualizing an edible-souvenir business. Customizable chocolate bars with personalized wrappers.

Beginnings

A self-confessed chocoholic, Sarah started baking chocolate cakes and cupcakes before she ventured in the chocolate bar business. But research in the Internet gave her the idea because chocolates with personalized wrappers are something new in the market.

After mastering the perfect chocolate recipe, DA ventured into business in 2005. Orozco's name is an amalgam of her father and mother's last names respectively—Ekanem and Magdalsat.

The RP Nutrition and Dietetics graduate ate from UST has always been an entrepreneur at heart despite coming from a family of professionals—a doctor dad and a nurse mom.

She hardly recalls selling hair clips and colored chalks to her classmates in grade school.

"Actually, at first, my parents were a bit 'worried' for me because of the risks involved in putting up a business but I told them that even if I get starved, OK na 'ko. But they've always been very supportive," says the eldest in the brood of five.

Teacher

Sarah has not really turned her back on a professional career. She teaches part-time in HRM students at the St. Jude University of Manila. She is also taking her Masters in Food Service Administration at UP Diliman.

"Being an entrepreneur helps me multi-task more effectively because I get to share to them my experiences in the food business," explains Sarah who also has hospitality administration training at Market Market in the UK.

In the beginning, she used to "market" the chocolates by sending e-mails to friends and other people inviting them to try her product. She eventually tied up

OROZCO

with some wedding websites and joined events her friends were, orders have started coming in.

The homemade chocolate bars come in the humdrier cookies and cream, three stripes, three pandan and white chocolate variety.

Wrapper designs vary according to what the customers like.

"Clients sometimes give me the idea or we can lay out for them. We usually give them at least two to three options to choose from or if they have the design already they could just give it to us through e-mail," relates Sarah.

Photos, etc.

Customers can also include photos or special sentiments to add a personal touch to each chocolate bar. Others, she says, use the same designs or have mix-n-match. Wrappers are printed using glossy paper.

Weddings have been Sarah's biggest market, adding that when she was just starting "that's the only event I know [where] my products would be most valuable. Later, I ventured to other events where my little-customers ordered for their baby's special occasions."

Her chocolates have also become instant hits in school events such as proms and other corporate affairs.

The chocolate bars come in regular and bite sizes. Prices are P40 for the regular (minimum order of 100 pieces) and P20 for the bite-sized (minimum of 150).

Sarah makes the chocolate bars herself while a graphic artist helps design the wrappers. She uses semi-sweet dours-

bitter-sweet locally because she adds they're inexpensive and don't melt easily.

Home-based

Although her business is home-based and chocolates are made on a per order basis, she still dreams of having a store of her own in the future.

"Hopefully, when people will already know that there's a chocolate for any events I could have my own store. Right now, hindi pa siya feasible because here in the country, most people still think souvenirs are more of the display items. They don't have an idea are that souvenirs can also be eaten," she laments.

DA has been tapping a wider market with the creation of its website. Web-based clients are growing in numbers and are hooked on Sarah's unique personalized chocolates. As proof, testimonials of satisfied customers here and abroad are flooding the site.

And this is something that makes the entrepreneur's life sweeter.

For inquiries, visit www.customcc.com or call 0917.8063677.

Rivermaya's Blanco sings different tune

By Rizz T. Olchondra

MAKING MUSIC IS NOT EXACTLY the quickest way to earning millions, especially with money so tied with the Internet now than ever before.

So he means in his home by making his money work for him.

"Everyone grew up being taught to invest in a bank, but what if you get sinvestidos by inflation?" he said at the exhibition of the Mcconnell Wars launch at the SM Mall of Asia.

He was there to hand over a laptop donated by Microsoft to his recipient of Intellectuals as up and coming band called Arbo.

He shared, among other things, his view that musicians should outsource their music while they have the chance, but to keep their eye on the future.

"You should make your money work for you," he urged the crowd.

Musicians mainly earn from shows, but two years have to buy a CD for one family. Ideally musicians should earn from their albums, but that is not always the case. People don't think piracy hurts but it does," he said.

As for Blanco, he said he was a "dabbler" before going full-time into making songs.

Mr.C+Blanco (center) and members of local band Arbo explore Microsoft Vista

"As a kid, I would record songs on the radio, using double cassette recorder. I would take out the DJ's voice to make non-stop music for parties, then make demos in karaoke, and I carried my first paycheck on a job I did with a composer, arranging some songs," he said.

He co-founded Rivermaya in 1992 and remembered starting musically from the music financial crisis hit in 1997 and the value of his savings was drastically cut.

Blanco learned his lesson and he now puts his money in several companies. He also has investments in several local bars and has even started investing in real estate.

"I buy the shares stuff [and] that is likely to eventually increase in value," he said.

Blanco said he has also used his band's business by starting a clothing company in his hometown, San Pedro, Laguna, and found that he could do it well enough.

However, the business drew much time and effort away from his first love, music. So he has decided to stick to personal investments while pursuing his music.

"For have to artbo while you're still musically relevant," he said. "But at least I know that I can do it from a business' in the future, since I've done it before."

Flower arrangement training on Feb. 17

THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE Skills and Development program will conduct a one-day seminar on fresh flower arrangement at the Bermuel Blooms Unlimited at 9 Sinsuan Rd., Proj. 3, Quezon City on Feb. 17, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Topics to be discussed are watering of materials, potting etc. There will be a hands-on experience on how to make long and low arrangements.

Participants will receive certificates of training right after the seminar. Lunch and snacks will be served and all the materials will be provided. For payments call 952-48-28; 426-78-26; 913-65-51; and 911-29-61.

Sunday BIZ

Putting people on the road to success

Vehicle maker takes step to teach Filipinos how to fish

FOR EVERY Urvan sold, UMC gives P1,000 to a cooperative that lends to microentrepreneurs.

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THESE DAYS, TERRY'S a GLEAM IN ELIZABETH Lee's eyes. She has the look of someone in the midst of a socially successful venture.

It started in March 2006 when Universal Motors Corp. established an its "Ur Van, Ur Business Ownership sa Urvan" program. Through the UVMP, Lee and the company track the right users from the usual business of making vehicles to offering conveniences and added value to buyers.

"We're no longer in the business of just 'making vehicles,'" says UMC's top marketing official. "We are now in the business of making a difference in people's lives."

Barely a year later, Lee is seeing Phase 2 of the program develop into what is dubbed Human Bayanis Academy (HBA), which is a formal value-add program for Urvan buyers.

"UVMP has grown from using the Nissan Urvan as a viable mobile business venture (Phase 1), to reaching out to our OFWs and giving them a profitable option for investing their hard-earned money through direct banking services with the Philippine National Bank (Phase 2)," she says.

To put up the academy, UMC has teamed up with Asian Institute of Management professors Ricardo A. Morato and guru of the school's Master in Entrepreneurship program, and their S. Cabarrús. Women businessmen of the Year of the Boar and Young Entrepreneurs of the Philippines 2005.

Through HBA, "Urvanistas" have the privilege to take the entrepreneurship program for a nominal fee.

"Education seems the natural follow-through for us to help, in our little way, husband the businesses which the entrepreneurs already started using our Urvans," Lee explains.

The HBA program consists of four aspects: the entrepreneurial mindset, co-creating a personal vision; an introduction to marketing; and another to financial management. These courses made the functional areas of a business, such as applying the 4Ps of marketing and drafting various financial statements—become more understood, and result in failure.

Barely a year ago, Lee proclaimed that through the Nissan Urvan Escapade and the Nissan Urvan Shuttle, UMC has decided to teach people "how to fish."

The first steps were taken with the Center for Community for Entrepreneurs in Manila, a credit cooperative with which UMC had been a partner in social advocacy and of which Cabarrús is president.

Since then, UMC has been moving over to OCT P1,000 for every Urvan unit sold. The money is used to extend to micro-entrepreneurs who needed funds but have no collateral for the usual loan set requirements.

"We have found the perfect formula to courage business with social responsibility," Lee avers. "What can be more important than empowering enterprising people and aiding in creating their dreams?"

The UVMP program had targeted overseas Filipino workers who wanted to go into a business. The Urvan was purchased as "conveyor generator" and a "one-of-all trades."

The come-on is a low down payment of P99,000 for the vehicle that sells for about P1.2 million. The new Urvanite gains on the investment through any number of self-liquidating schemes related to the Urvan design.

At the start, UMC recommended that buyers use the Urvan as a school bus or church service or as delivery vans and ambulances.

"But, Filipinos, being natural entrepreneurs, threw over those who had the courage and drive to leap outside the box and start something on their own," Lee recounts. "Some innovated to make the Urvan a mobile carwashers, mobile post offices, or mobile retail stores."

The newest ideas were to use the van as a mobile pet grooming shop or a mobile medical clinic.

Success stories

The Urvanites now include a homemaker who, eager to educate to providing for her family, turned the everyday chore of ferrying the kids from school into a full-fledged school bus service.

And there's the former newsboy delivering papers on he used to ride his first time running triple of what he did.

There's even a live-in retired Army officer who plies the streets across route from Mabuhay to Makati and back on his own time.

With help from OUT, funds from the UVMP have benefited a servant man owner with the steel capital to expand her store; a husband-and-wife team with money to renovate their home; a suffering shop; a tricycle driver with a loan for his weekly gas expense; a tinapa vendor with raw money for a small stall in the public market.

Through OCT's 110 branches across the nation, UVUB has reached the lives of 750 families so far.

Of course, UMC itself benefits from the efforts. As Lee herself relates, the firm has expanded to reach not only with the A and B segments, but the Categories as well.

"There was a tremendous response to UVUB. In the first nine months alone, we received 10,000 inquiries mostly by text messages," Lee remembers. "This means Filipinos want to work, are willing to work, to elevate themselves from relying on handouts."

Sales of the Nissan Urvan doubled to more than 100 units a month, even surpassing total van sales of the leading vehicle maker.

Seeing UMC's success, competitors have launched similar entrepreneurial programs.

Reaching foreign shore

"The program even reached the shores of our neighbor Malaysia where the UVUB program was featured in a leading auto magazine," Lee relates. "During my recent trip to attend the Nissan Asean Conference in Bangkok last month, I was asked to share the UVUB program as best practice for other Nissan dealerships in Asian from.

In fact, Malaysia's Nissan subsidiary is now planning to replicate the program for Malaysians.

As for UMC, it continues to help OFWs, reaching those in the US, Australia, Europe, Middle East and other parts of Asia including Kazakhstan. Lee reveals that UMC will soon start to reach out to OFWs based in Hong Kong, South Korea and Singapore.

"I've been asked, since buyers already bought our vans, why bother to help educate?"

Lee answers that UVUB has become a crusade. "We are not just aiming to sell a certain number of vehicles, but to help as many people as possible."

"In the end, no amount of courses, study training can ensure success because it all depends on the person," the crusader pontifex. "But we try to provide our clients with the tools and we are in this for the long haul.

But now vicario: To measure one's success by how much one contributes to the success of others.

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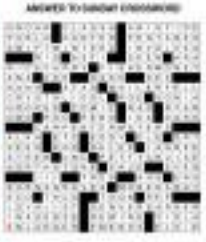

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Sunday LIFESTYLE
Editor Cheiz Banal-Formoso

IN THIS ISSUE

- **Mysterious,** luxurious love /D2
- **Eden in** Palawan /E6

Torrid zone

Enter the zone of romance, The Boutique Bed and Breakfast in Tagaytay

Text by Anne A. Jardines
Photos by Lyn Riñon

LOVE'S GEEKY FIRST BLUSH and its progression into aching affections come to life in this new boutique hotel in dreamy Tagaytay.

Dubbed by its owners as "the house of romance," **The Boutique Bed and Breakfast** is a seven-room hotel built around the exquisite theme of romance.

The Boutique's unique rooms and services foster romance all around...from the first furtive glances to the awkward conversations, from the first embrace to the lifelong commitment. The mushy sappy and cheesy elements are rolled into one because, like it or not, that's how the universal language of love is still spoken.

"We wanted to put up a place that would be more than just a boutique hotel in we adopted this for concept on the pleasures of living," said The Boutique's young visionary Happy Ongpauco.

Along with business partners Alma Moreno-Ibanez, Sweet Galvez and Melissa Santiago, Ongpauco leased a lot from her **pens with the picturesque view of the Taal** Lake, tore down the old house and rebuilt everything from the ground up.

As the clock ticked away closer toward Christmas, construction was at lightning speed 24/7. By late November, the Boutique had its soft opening and, sure enough, became fully booked for the holidays.

Rooms are named after seven emotions, what Moreno-Ibanez called the "seven processes of falling in love": I Look, I Dare, I Desire, I Dream, I Escape, I Surrender and I Love—and in that order, she stressed.

Moreno-Ibanez said the rush of emotions begins with but before one matters enough **courage to say hello and strike up a conversation.** "And then you get that dreamy faraway look and probably try to run away from the overwhelming sensation...When you get past that it's **when you're ready** to surrender and finally fall in love."

In the lexicon the **uncontrollable,** sassy but there is no room called I Escape.

All rooms are equipped with wall-mounted LCD TV, iPod-ready docks, king-size beds with 200 thread-count linens. On purpose, only I Look, the penthouse suite, has a bath—the old-fashioned, free-standing Roman tub with soft curves on the edges. And only I Love has a four-poster bed. Second-level rooms I Dare, I Desire and I Dream have private terraces overlooking Taal; I Love and I Surrender are on the ground level, have patios, while I Escape has its own pocket garden.

Some rates, from P5,000 up per day, are inclusive of all-day breakfast in bed for two.

Pampered lux

Like the names behind it, The Boutique (tel. 046-413-0885/1795/1696) knows what pampering guests truly means. Upon check-in, visitors are escorted into the Pamper Me room where they can choose from a variety of scents exclusively prepared for the hotel. Guests have options for their bath essentials, as well as room scents.

"We blend a chemist to come up with these wonderful products so that guests can bring their fantasies of luxury to the **here," Ongpauco said.**

Making choices is a heady rush. For **bath scents, people can choose from** six: rose, choco latte, lavender and lilac, **milk and honey, peppermint and** green apple, etc. For room fragrances, **people can choose from** hikahona-tion, orange, strawberry, **guava, ocean breeze,** rose, apple and lychee, etc.

SPOIL the senses.

The Pamper Me room has toiletries for sale, as well as souvenir stuff as "naughty" pillow cases, exclusive perfumes and make-up sets. Strip poker sets are also available for the more **fantastics at The Boutique.**

"We want our clients to fulfill their romantic if someone is at home and enjoy their stay. We are not trying to be sleazy here," Ongpauco said.

Designed by architect Jay Ibañez with **touches by Chat Farm, The Boutique's look** is a combination of Old World charm and **modern features. The style veers away from** the square and the serious. Fun, after all, is the open attitude toward life in this hotel.

There is a pillow menu, too, to ensure the utmost comfort of guests so they can doze

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Torrid zone

INTIMATE PAMPERING. One of seven rooms in the "house of goodness," where pleasures are indulged with first-class service

From page G-1

off into dumbfound—I inching away for the night is part of their agenda, that is.

Body excretion who can't live without their laptops in tow—even on a romantic holiday—have four rooms at Wi-fi Internet connection.

Hawaiian fine fusion, the hot and tropical restaurant located on the ground floor, offers al fresco dining with a delightful food menu. Dingaanon, after all, is a graduate of the Culinary Arts of America.

"There is a misconception that food in hotel with Filipino owners. I mix my recipes with the right combination of fresh spices and herbs for the dish to avoid becoming too sweet," she said.

At Dingaanon is no passionate about food as she is about life. The Boutique is also hotel with paired herbs and spices.

"We want to take our guests to a place to indulge and yet familiar, and that is our emotions. This is sophistication, this is passion, this is the high life," Dingaanon said.

E-mail the author at ajambon@inquirer.com.ph

SEAT OF PASSION. Orchid-adorned chairs welcome guests to the reception area.

THE PARTNERS. Alana Montalbano, Happy Dingaanon and Seven Cabure

FRESH. Dine al fresco at the restaurant overlooking Taal.

Valentine trea

AMANDA CENTER CELEBRATES THE LOVE month with a slew of red-letter events.

Walk hand in hand down memory lane with love songs from the world's top balladeer, Clif Richards, Feb. 13, at 8 p.m. Set for round for some good lovin' with nostalgic renditions from hit makers Paul Williams and Dennis Lambert on the day of hearts, Feb. 14, at 8 p.m.

After the big show, take some quality time to lights in over 300 restaurants around the Corona offering the finest tastes from the domestic. Call 911111111 for reservations at your favorite fine dining establishments.

More fun time a

CEBU CITY IS NOW MORE "SAYA TO THE MAX with longer park hours. Starting Feb. 12, it will open at 2 p.m. to give families even more hours of fun.

Ayala City offers a mix of 35 rides and walk Grounds, 60 games, 140 retail outlets, 130 food choices, two theaters with regular programs. It combines the convenience of a mall and the thrill of a theme park, with fully air-conditioned venues for shopping, food and rides.

Love spells fr

TOGETHER AT SEVEN. Celebrate Valentine's Day at Cabanas where an unlimited buffet of delicacies such as Bistro à la Palma, Singapore Hainan Pangang Sata, together with Mango Panna Cotta, Black Forest Cheesecake, Strawberry Shortcake, artistic creations with a hot bouquet-ready treat for you-sweetie. Feb. 14. Cabanas customers will get to know their love quotient on the Love Fortune Basket, where special love messages await them. Also on the menu: Cabanas' "We Eat All You Can, Eat All You Want for Two." Relive the best of dishes across the country in "Flavors of the Islands." Savor the exotic fare of Palawan's delicacies of Lampa sa Kalo and Pool Pitaka, Shrimp Rice Blanket of Davao, Kinadang Sulu of Tawi-Tawi, Kalaki with Bato from Batangas, Beef Empanada of Ilocos, Gata Sari Sari from Bataan. Perfect for Valentine's Day, today's famous pastel Buffet Cabanas is open, 42 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City. Call 811-1588, 42 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City. For reservations, call 811-1588.

Authentic Thai feast

Until Feb. 13-15, feast on authentic Thai cuisine at Cosby's exhibit scenes with Beluga Sparkling Pinot Noir for only P1,995 per bottle for a minimum purchase of P700. The authentic Valentine Thai lunch/dinner starts with Goldenthai Soup and the famous Crispy Catfish Salad. For the main dish, choose from the Squid Ink Bangus, Pad Thai Shrimp, Chicken Pandan and Fried Rice with Shrimp Paste and Condiments. For sweet treatment in Thai, Nam Pakin, a variety of special ingredients topped with coconut cream and served with a choice of fresh milk or coconut milk. Cosby's is at Greenbelt 5, Robinson's Manila and Robinsons Galleria. For Cosby's delivery, call Market!Market! Deli North Edsa, Gateway Card Gateway Food court. Call 911-1588.

Indulgent Valentine dinner

On Valentine's Day at CFK, dine to your heart's desire and order anything from the menu. No set menus or limited options. Choose from its many starters like the recently introduced Grilled Vegetable Salad – a garden of greens on grilled vegetable lettuce garnished with prosciutto and sun-dried tomatoes. Or warm up and share your tummy with soup, like the best-in-a-bowl medley of the Cabochi Scratched Pea and Barley Soup or the Indonesian Tortilla Soup. Dual glances of one another as you indulge in your main course – Kung Pao Spaghetti simmering with peanuts and hot chilies; or the new Thai Curry Noodles stir-fried with Asian vegetables and bathed in a green curry sauce. If you're wherever in at CFK, you mustn't forget about The Voices. Velvety mousse life-save and that goes for the new Greek yogurt – blueberry-mousse covered in thick chicken and mozzarella bake with a Greek chilled salad of cucumbers, tomatoes, olives and feta cheese, drizzled with a lemon-herb vinaigrette. Other options include Cool Cheese with Roasted Peppers dip and the new Pepperoni Pomodoro – a classy twist on the normal with lots of pepperoni and herbs. For

ats at the mall

t Star City

om the kitchen

Flowers for her

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Why love goes wrong

Loving the wrong person for the wrong purpose in the wrong place at the wrong price

By Grace Monghsan Kee
Contributor

I TOOK POST-DOCTORATE studies at Harvard a few years ago and, as part of the course work in Adult Development, my classmates and I shared our life stories. All five of us had experienced marriage. But one had divorced after 32 years of marriage and another, after 22 years; one was childless, the other a single mother. A third had just reconciled with her spouse after a long separation; she was childless but had adopted two "difficult boys." The fourth one was married but childless for 22 years. I remained the only one married with kids.

The last to speak, I was hesitant, wondering if my story would sound so different and be interpreted as boastful. I said rather quickly and softly that I counted myself of "good fortune" to have had a most supportive husband and two lovely well-behaved teenage children (then aged 16 and 15). I recounted episodes of our life and my group mates sighed with envy at the same time asking me to share more.

Since then I have had many more of the same experiences listening to middle-age women in seminars and even in church groups. I have heard stories of divorce, separation, annulment, neighborhood, single parenting, fighting over custody of the children, seeking revenge for spouse's infidelity, etc.

And I wonder: Why should my story be counted among the exceptions?

Loving the wrong person

I believe the problem of most failed marriages is caused by not giving sufficient thought to the trustworthiness of the other person, and also of oneself.

Trustworthiness should be the No. 1 consideration in deciding marriage—not looks, money, person family, etc.

I am often amazed at how an otherwise intelligent, accomplished person can be so foolish in love, falling for obviously untrustworthy persons who are glib and glamorous but decidedly dishonest.

The married one's life and future is someone one cannot trust in the first place is marital suicide. One has also to consider if one's self is trustworthy enough for a lasting commitment.

Love in the wrong place

It pains me to see my IV girls suffering from anorexia, women living for their 39th plastic surgery, liposuction portrayed as a standard procedure, botox injection seen as lunch break. To think that a makeover could get the best suitor or win back a philandering husband is self-deprecating.

If an inflated bust or a deflated tummy makes one's exposure-change-hit mind so quickly about consciousness and magically bestows "the ability to love" another more and longer, one can be sure his love is not worthy.

And here we are not evoked that every beauty queen and actresses, who generate more than their fair share of beauty, have also been betrayed and abandoned!

Love is not about a higher nose, deeper eyelids, smaller hips or thinner hair.

Love for the wrong purpose

"Why do people get married?" I asked my graduate students in Adult Learning class.

The discussion was neither dull nor normal as everyone had an opinion. Social expectation?

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FERRARI and Maserati display

FERRARI F430

FERRARI 575 Maranello

WILLY Soong and Felix Ang

WATCH connoisseurs Nio Alonso, Raja Lumbi, Bobbito Perales, Kevin Pascual, Tess Princess and Lutes Jalais

Love's mysteries and luxuries

JET Set magazine editor Liza Lumbi and hubby Elbert Cuenca

BMW couple Dilan and Lizie Gamayo

LUCERNE royal couple Lingling and Emerson Yao

CATS CEO Felix Ang and lovely wife Grace

IT'S THE WEEKEND BEFORE Valentine's Day, when we all go off on a shopping expedition to find the ultimate gift, hopefully where sky's the limit and money can't buy love but can surely get many other things that might generate love!

In the atmosphere of Valentine's fete, there are impressive real estate car brands like Jaguar, Ferrari and Maserati. These brands make the passengers understand that one has truly arrived at the pinnacle of success, when one can say "Honey, here are the keys to your new convertible. Happy Valentine's Day!" and ideally the honey referred to is actually one's spouse.

At the Manila launch of the 2007 Ferrari Malaysian Formula 1 friend Wilt Ferrari had a beautiful display along with the rest of the Formula 1 entries like Mercedes-Benz and BMW. Dazzling right next to each is powerful and virile piece of metal. I imagined myself visiting a checkered flag wearing a red, patent leather suit and high stiletto boots.

The well-attended party for Fl enthusiasts was held at the NBC Tent. The Ferrari brand was represented by a 575 Maranello, an 9400 and the final point of the entire fleet, the blazing-red Enzo rank 1 car that was specially flown in by Shell. Exclusive motor Willy Soong told us that this first official Fl event was of course huge about the upcoming Fl races in Sepang, Malaysia.

That evening, a lucky winner received the grand raffle prize of a cruise for two to Malaysia with tickets to Sepang. For those who didn't win, there are many treats to Sepang, where one can enjoy the whiff of high-octane fuel and the roar of unmuffled, turbo-charged engines.

Gift of time

Of course, for most of us, cars are out of the shopping range. Closer to earth might be the gift of time, such as the Jaeger-LeCoultre Reverso Squadra Hantle Time Chronos in stainless. This fine timepiece may allow time-piece, with its powerful and elegant square proportions, to speak classic beauty and timelessness. How luxuriously do I love thee? Let me lovingly count the ways!

TESSA! Tessa Prieto-Valdes

love allure.

The most beautiful flowers Collection in 75 years is now creating the world and Lucerne has brought the exclusively, rose-gemstone JLC exerbox to the Philippines. The sophisticated launch party at 10 Cali presented three different chronograph designs, available in steel, 18-carat rose gold or a limited edition of 1,500 in titanium.

For true connoisseurs of fine watches, the JLC Reverso Collection is an absolute must—a timepiece with the highest standards of precision and efficiency thanks to its extraordinary technical system. I just love the elegance behind the watch. During the launch of the world's most luxurious mobile phone, Vertu, Tessa suggested several watch options that were quite interesting but I couldn't decide so I still owe him a gift. Thank goodness he doesn't mind my lamental Five Chronicles, Valentine's and birthdays from now; he might finally get a Reverso.

Gift of beauty

If high-end watches are off the charts, maybe the gift of beauty is more within the range. Clinical skincare evidence + prescription is now available, bridging the gap between cosmetics and surgery. An Australian cosmetic line called Skin Doctors, available at Rustan's, has amazing products that enhance the skin without surgery. Anti-aging creams, eye toppers, eye-bag removers, sensi Ignatide and facelifts-in-a-jar are just some of the wonders Skin Doctors can deliver.

I am excited by their French Avery Cream in hopes of ridding myself of stretch marks from 20 years of having babies. If Skin Doctors doesn't work, then I might as well get a tummy tuck from show-biz skin doctor Vicki Belo.

According to Skin Doctors' marketing director Shelly Lamers, their repeat customers are positive signs that their products are effective. For instance, photos clients like myself, Skin Doctors is the way to go.

Skin Doctors was recently launched at the Rustan's Tower at Shangri-La Mall, together with an ultra cool makeup line called Tali Shine. Australian beauty creator Tali Shine graced the event together with the Australian ambassador and Rustan's CEO Gina Tantoco as guests of honor.

Tali Shine packaging is quite interactive with its chic, animated graphics. The shades in the make-up sets are great for traveling and very portable for touch-ups. I heard that Tali is a groupie of American pop princess Paris Hilton. Aside from makeup, Tali also has bath and body products that smell quite delicious. It's wonderful that Rustan's carries all these upcoming brands.

Say it with flowers

Dotted into the budget list love months or Valentine's on earth. In this case, flowers say "love in all that matters." Instead of the usual roses-are-red standards, why not try giving lovely lisianthus, wildly blooms, true-lasting flowers? Rustan Flora on the Alabang Town Center has a wide array of colors of these exotic bud variety flowers.

Rustan Flora (tel. 8874456, or 7888242 or log in to www.rustanflora.com) is a one-stop garden oasis showcasing different garden styles, flowers, plant nursery, exotic landscapings and natural stones. The relaxing sound of cascading waters lend to calmness as customers roam to lifestyle landscapes.

Furniture passion

Prominent landscape artist Mona Malvar established Rustan Flora, which offers a wide variety of Asian furniture, decorative accessories and natural stones. A visit to Rustan's is a relaxing and inspiring experience where wonderful ideas for garden concepts can be picked up. The garden items are also so beautiful.

Long-time friend Bit Zobel and I eat the albino recently and were finished gigantic bouquet of lisianthus. The flowers are gorgeous and perfect for this Valentine season.

Most important of all, to remember this V-Day, is that still, mainly budget is irrelevant. The right-est long and the sweetest kiss will do!

E-mail the author at [illegible]

AUSTRALIAN beauty Tali Shine and Rustan's Rhoda Campos-Atienza

DOCTOR'S Choice owner William Uberas and Rustan's CEO Gina Tantoco-Jr.

CLOSE'd beds Mona Tantoco and Reina Sue Diego

JESSEN-LOCKALTNE'S Daniel Bagger and Lucerne's Jean Yao

SKIN Doctors' Shelly Lamers

RARTINI Asia at Alabang Town Center, Tess Princess, owners Nina and Jon Matrix and Kit Zobel

POWER couples Michael and Angel Tan and Cindy and Kenneth Ong

CABANA seating featuring Karmel display of furnishings beside the waterfall and the pond

AUSTRALIAN delegates Alan and Janice Morrell, Tali Shine, Wendy Hicks, Shelly Lamers, Australian Ambassador Tony Help and Tess Princess

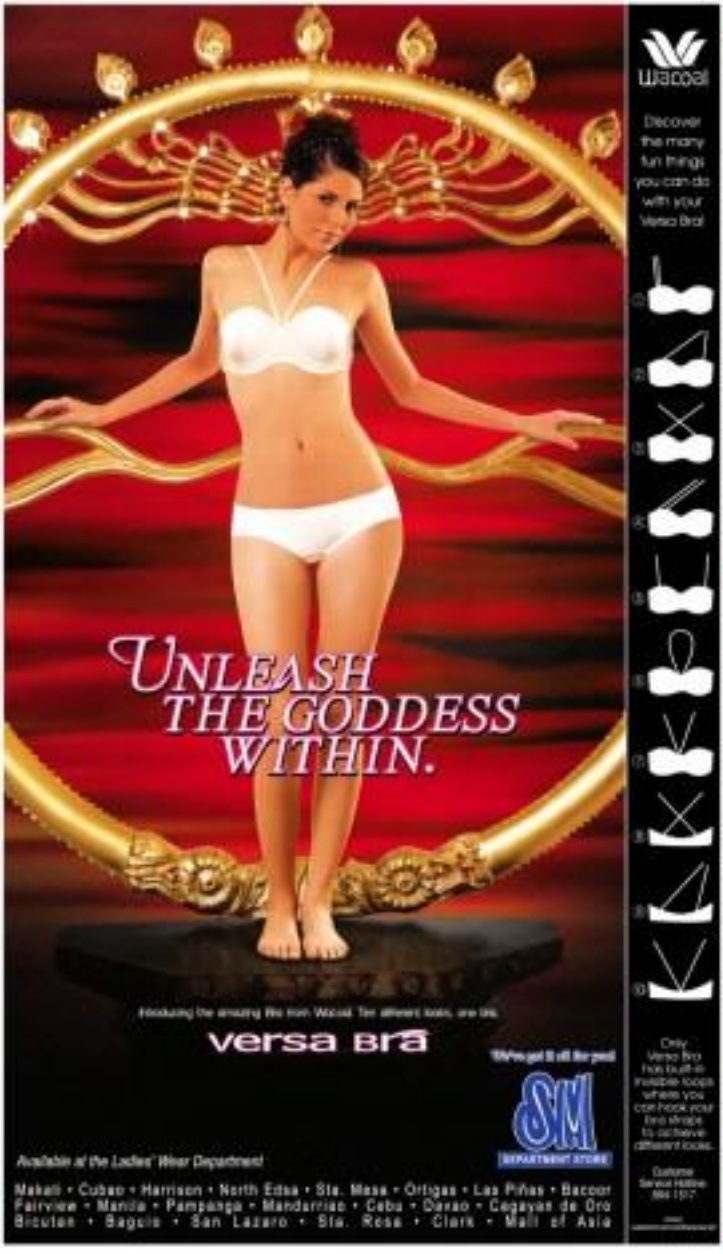
KARTINI Asia natural stone décor from Indonesia

SM launches the Versa Bra collection

DEPARTMENT STORE

Wacoal

SM Department Store – the country's largest retail chain – has been chosen by Wacoal, a leading international designer of quality intimate wear for women, as the venue to launch the **Versa Bra**, an innovative and versatile shape enhancer that can be worn 10 different ways.



Designed with built-in loops for hooking up bra straps, **Versa Bra** is so versatile it can be worn with practically any attire.

- as a standard bra with over-the-shoulder straps, ideal for regular T-shirts and dresses
- as a normal two-strap bra with the central strap around the back
- as a halter, as demonstrated by the advertised item in this page
- as a deep halter with low back to be worn with similar-type dress or top
- as a racer back, by simply crossing the straps over at the back
- strapless, for low back or off-shoulder attire

Versa Bra's adaptability to a wide range of fashion styles eliminates the need to change from one bra to another.

"A woman's bra wardrobe should be as well thought-out as the outfit she wears over it."

A few basic facts on intimate wear

- 8 out of 10 women wear the wrong bra size
- a bra should make you feel beautiful as well as enhance your wardrobe
- a properly fit bra should be comfortable, and should contain, support, lift and shape your bust
- you should be professionally fitted for a bra once a year
- you must try on a bra before you buy it
- always wash bras and panties before you wear them for the first time

A reminder

Visit a Wacoal consultant at your nearest SM Department Store and get measured for the right bra.

Why love goes wrong

By [illegible]

Build a family? Start career moves? Money? Convenience? Old-fashioned values?

The young talk of romantic love as if they know it best. The old talk of pragmatic goal much like they have lost faith in love.

Women dream of a family in picture-perfect order. Men look for sex as progressive perfect wives?

Is there a purpose to marriage? Should there be one? Is unplanned marriage more romantic than planned? How much thinking should be involved in decision?

The bottom line for me is: If one does not have the ability to love someone unselfishly enough to protect and cherish her/him, to look after her/his best interest—sometimes above his/her own—and to die for a lifetime, I don't think the relationship will last.

Love at the wrong price

When I hear people sharing tearfully about the hardships and pain that come with marriage, I wonder if marriage is actually a blessing for them.

Why the suffering and misery? Are we to be masochistic in love? Isn't love supposed to be something wonderful and fun, and marriage and family a joy?

I suspect there are too many martyrs of their own making. I meet people whose self-esteem and confidence are so low, expectations so nonexistent that they are willing to put up with anything!

Not having experienced true love from their family many are willing to throw away the sanctity of vows to the wind and have their last source of dignity trampled—for the cheap thrill of "love."

Marriage is a partnership of two equals and the price that they give should not be unreasonably skewed in one side.

Love does not have to be blind. Elaine Pascal says, "Clarity of mind means clarity of passion, too."

E-mail the author at grace@ako.org

Passion per scent

Three suggestions for Valentine's gift-giving from the exhilarating realm of fragrances

LIKE the woman it was made for, I'm Chic by Chloe & Calabasas is every ounce the diva—sensual, seductive and spectacular. Encased in a classic rectangular-shaped flacon with a bold cap reminiscent of a gold bar, the fragrance opens with an exciting, modern interpretation of fresh fruits—juicy peach, delicate lychee and mouth-watering mandarin, lightly contrasted by smooth vanilla.

THE NEWEST women's fragrance by Kenzo is a woody, mossy, floral scent. Reminiscent of a mystic woods short memories of standing through Asia's exotic destinations: extracts of white tea from China, cherry blossoms from Japan, India Thai rice, Singapore flowers from Amsterdam, freesia and Canada wood from Bosnia, and white musk from Bali. The bottle, which is a stylized representation of an abstract bird, comes in fuchsia, white and orange.

NINA, a fragrance by Nina Ricci, is enchantingly sweet and addicting with top notes of Golden Anjou pear and peppermint leaf, heart notes of Bulgarian apple, peony and almond flower...and base notes of apple wood and white cedar. The fragrance is presented in an apple-shaped flacon adorned with dainty silver leaves. It's sweet, fruity, vibrant, crisp and rich—as tempting as the legendary fruit that has bewitched maidens and princesses.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Gourmet Chinese dining at 30,000 feet

The positive response to the menu prepared by Mandarin encouraged PAL to repeat the promotion from February to November

By Michaela Fenix

ON THE TABLES AT THE TIN Hau of the Mandarin Oriental Manila Hotel were several airline trays. They created the needed setting for airline food that we were to taste that day.

It was the second (in-up-of the Mandarin and Philippine Airlines to produce Chinese food for passengers. The first one was in September. The positive response to the menu encouraged the airline to repeat the promotion from February to November this year.

Helmut Sanftenger, Mandarin general manager, welcomed the guests and introduced chef Yuan Fuin Chen of the Tin Hau where recipes are used for this promotion.

PAL executive chef Gin McKinstry followed so that all the food we were about to eat were made by Mr Fu, team in the airline' seven kitchens. It was a sort of dry run because food would really be transported from kitchen to the plane.

For appetizers we had scallops with a fish roe sauce, drunken chicken in green ginger sauce and braised vegetables and mushroom encased in bean curd skin then pan-seared.

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Gourmet Chinese dining at 30,000 feet

A CHOICE of desserts in small bowls

From page E1

The mains breads came next, fried breads best eaten with dishes with sauce. It would have been easy to fill up on the bread because it was flavorful.

There were three main courses to choose from. While most people at the table chose seafood items, it was wok-fried pork spareribs for me. I've always believed that pork and Chinese cooking are unbeatable.

Served on the airline container, the pork spareribs came with steamed Japanese rice wrapped in lotus leaves. It was difficult to cut the leaf but chef McKenzie said, when the dish was served in the plates, the leaf would have been cut.

The ribs had a peppery sweet-and-sour accompanied by sautéed Chinese broccoli.

The other choices were fish steamed—cod and chicken. The cod had bean curards, broccoli with a salted egg sauce and served with fried rice. The chicken had a ginger-leek sauce with Shao Xing wine and served with Beijing noodles.

There were more main courses on the menu and they were displayed on tables set on one side of the dining area—poached seafood, honey ginger chicken, steamed rice buns and fried prawns, each with specific accompaniments.

Dessert in small bowls were set on the Lazy Susan and everyone was asked to taste each one. There was almond jelly with lily bulb and seaffa berries, a round, layer cake combined flats and ube jam, a layered coconut milk concoction that was a quite sugar-sensitive, and a fruit bowl with lychee, papaya and pineapple.

THE AIRLINE'S Chinese-style

Tea is a good beverage combination for the food but wine choices are also available. I tried the ribs with a red wine and it was perfect.

A nice touch was the XO sauce in a small plastic pack. It completes this Chinese experience on board a PAL flight.

'Feng shui' home solutions

A CLEAN, BRIGHT AND SPACIOUS dwelling is always more receptive to the universe's positive energy. According to *feng shui*, the centuries-old Chinese art and science of placement and design, it is important to ensure the free flow of energy (or the life force called chi) inside our homes. This task need not be tedious and financially draining. Here are three simple ways.

De-clutter and organize. Throw away old things that might be blocking the flow of energy in your home. Repair damaged pipes. Invest in storage spaces.

Add color. And when you do, choose a color scheme that reflects your personal taste. According to *feng shui* experts, this is important so that the occupant feels connected to his home, and thus improves his comfort level. Light colors are associated with youth and creativity, while dark colors harness career and knowledge.

Welcome the light. Good lighting in your home does not necessarily mean buying expensive lighting fixtures but having good natural illumination. *Feng shui* readers believe that all creatures on earth are phototropic, or constantly moving toward the light. Natural light exerts a powerful physical force, affecting the body and the rhythms of life. Not

UNCLUTTERED living at Qi and Soho Makati's modern one-bedroom loft

for large windows or glass panels that will expose your home to natural light.

All these design elements—unclutered living spaces, a personal touch of color and the presence of natural light—make Grand Soho Makati (GSM)'s unique and distinguished residential condominium to rise in the heart of the Makati Golden Triangle. Flanked on three sides by major thoroughfares—Makati, Buendia and Ayala Avenues—GSM's location is even deemed lucky by *feng shui* experts.

GSM offers additional storage spaces on the parking levels for personal use of unit owners. A first in condo living, these warehouses solve the problem of space for high-rise residents who may not have the luxury of backyards or garages to accommodate items that clutter their otherwise chic living spaces.

Century Properties, the visionary developer behind GSM, offers the best of modern luxury and design philosophy by pairing the same design team behind the world-renowning Ramos Ear Archer (awarded by Asiaweek as the Philippine's Best Residential Building) on the project.

GSM is fully fitted and fully furnished, so residents will never have to worry about buying appliances and furniture or hiring interior decorators, as each unit is turned over complete with bedroom, kitchen, living room and dining room furniture.

What's more, residents can choose from three exceptional interior design options: Modern, Sleek and Contemporary, each with its own light, dark or combination themes which allow for creative and elegant use of color in a style

ILLUMINATE your space with oversized glass windows and soaring ceilings at GSM's sleek one-bedroom loft.

that's all his resident's own.

Each unit benefits from the abundant light and natural illumination to give the feeling of space and freedom. The ultra-exclusive skyloft units at GSM boast of 10- to 20-foot-high ceilings and oversized glass windows offering breathtaking views of the city. These select residences offer the open air to the outside and infinity pool overlooking Salcedo Village.

Call 8189025, 8819000, 0917-7032888, or visit www.grandsoho.com.

Say it with beads and charms

THE BEAD SHOP, THE COUNTRY'S PIONEER in beaded and craft jewelry, celebrates friendship, romance and love with two distinct Valentine Gift Collections.

"Heart Song in A Glass" features the fine art of rice writing. Glass vials containing grains of rice inscribed with sentiments, love notes or the names of loved ones are custom-designed into classic yet fashionable necklaces, bracelets and charms.

Messages and words have more impact when put into writing. Say what you mean and more what you say with the exclusively designed metal "Saying Rings" — a versatile gift accessory that can be worn five ways (ring, necklace, bracelet, belt charm or anklet). Choose from five different messages or words namely: U R My Happiness, Luck, Love, Wealth, Happiness and Best Friend. Each pack contains a short poem or quote that depicts thoughts on these topics.

These fun and functional pieces from The Bead Shop are ideal not just for couples, but for everyone who has a loved one in mind this coming Valentine's including parents, teachers, children and best friends.

The Bead Shop's Valentine's collection is available at the following branches: Ayala Center Cebu, Power Plant Mall, Glorietta 1, SM Megamall, SM City North Edsa, SM City Cebu, Tamarind City, Robinson's Galleria, Robinson's Place, SM City Fairview, SM Southmall, SM Baguio Center, Old Manila, SM Sta. Mesa and Sta. Lucia East. Call 6302349.

SAYING Rings can be worn five ways — as rings, necklace, bracelet, belt charm or anklet.

HEART Song in a Glass features the ancient art of rice writing, which can be customized to hold endearments or even the names of your loved ones.

FLOWER ARRANGEMENT SEMINAR

A seminar-workshop on flower arrangement for business and pleasure will be conducted by Ikebana professor Senpiten S. Matilla, 1-4 p.m., Feb. 21-25, at Meiji Plait Arts, King Louis Garden Center, Manila Banking Bank corner Edsa and Quezon Avenue, QC. The five-day workshop will cover Ikebana with hands-on on Moribana and Shoka; Western style: tri-pointed or one-sided and L-shape; Minoura style: crescent shape. Hogarth line and flower shop operation; Free styles, buffet or party centerpieces and garland making; and Corsage, bridal bouquet, making and other wedding arrangements. Materials like pruning scissors, flower vases, floral foams, flowers, foliage, wires and ribbons will be provided. Participants also get snacks, handouts and certificates. Advance registration, at least three days before start of seminar, is required. A 15 percent discount will be given to senior citizens and those who register on or before Feb. 15. Call: 4304691, 4342679 or 09 (1.402152.

Call if you can't send roses

WITH SUN CELLULAR'S EID TOP 10, YOU can take your own sweet time savoring the hearts of distant loved ones in the most affordable way.

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Let the sound of your voice replace flowers and chocolates as you call your wife working in a New York City hospital. Tell your favorite cha cha(on you haven't seen since she left for Hong Kong that her parmaglots is doing just fine. Make your best friend feel that you still care even if she's now based in Singapore.

If you are a Sun Cellular postpaid subscriber wanting to avoid yourself of this excuse, just dial 200 on your Sun mobile phone or visit the nearest Sun Shop. If you are a prepaid subscriber, you can enjoy this service by buying a Sun EDE Top 10 call card from the Sun Shop, your favorite retail outlet, or via e-Pin. Upon load or EDEL purchase through The Mall ATM/KIOSK Top 10 Card will provide approximately 20 minutes of EDE credit with a seven-day validity period.

SUBIC LANDMARK
The Lighthouse Marina Resort has opened in Subic. A project of Jun Arevalo and Cynde Tan-Jardeleza, the Lighthouse is a marina resort. It features a mid-evening lighthouse. The resort has contemporary Mediterranean and nautical designs. Inside the lighthouse is the three-tier 'TIP' Bar. The Sands restaurant serves gifted food and international cuisine. The Lighthouse offers an introductory rate of P1,200+ until March 31. The rate includes breakfast for two, welcome drinks and fruits, choice of body and bath amenities, afternoon cocktails, and midnight tea staccatos. Call 047-2525888 or 09225234, 09276753.

Travel Briefs

Parade welcomes Chinese New Year

THE HONG KONG TOURISM BOARD (HKTB) has announced details of the 2007 Cathay Pacific International Chinese New Year Night Parade on Feb. 18, the final evening of Chinese New Year, at Tsim Sha Tsui. Themed HAPPY, this year's parade is "Celebrate When It's Hot." For the 13th staging of the event, the HKTB will add even more colorful elements to the parade. More international and interactive elements will be added, transforming the event into a mellow festival street party for residents and visitors. This year, the HKTB will set up more performing zones along the parade route. Starting Feb. 1, visitors and residents can have a sneak preview of the parade. The HKTB will stage an exhibition of the event, including visuals of the final design and information on the performing groups, at IFC Mall in Central and Avenue of Stars in Tsim Sha Tsui.

New year offer

Welcome the Year of the Pig at The Bellevue Hotel (7716811). On Feb. 15-18, you can stay overnight for P4,500+ at a deluxe room. Included in the promo are buffet breakfast for two, a bottle of sparkling wine, a box of tikoy, free use of gym and swimming pool, welcome fruit platter, two bottles of mineral water, 10-percent discount on food and beverage for lunch and dinner, and 10-percent discount on massage services at The Bellevue Spa.

Valentine room package

Manila Pavilion Hotel offers "Sweet Nicky Valentine Room Special." For only P4,200, share an overnight stay in a deluxe room with buffet breakfast for two and a whole day of activities. Call 5551212 for details.

NEW SCHOOL RESORT
The resort Amorita with open-chic style in Alona Beach, Panglao Island, Bohol. Amorita, the newest resort on the strip, offers vacation-e style with its private villas with their own jacuzzi overlooking the sea. The resort also has an infinity pool. Alona Beach on Panglao Island is just 30 minutes from Tagbilaran airport by land. It has 17-kilometer strip of fine white sand and calm waters.

Win a trip to Singapore

The Singapore Tourism Board Philippines (STB-P) will give away round-trip air tickets to the Lion City at the 14th Travel Expo Feb. 9-11 at SM Megamall Megahalls Halls 1-3.

Discount packages and flights to Singapore and other destinations will also be offered at the expo organized by the Philippine Travel Agencies Association.

The STB-P has 8 CEBAir tickets worth P7,000 each to be raffled off every day of the expo. To join the raffle, visit the booth of the Singapore Tourism Board-Philippines and fill out a raffle coupon. Winners will be announced every day at the expo.

Buy a ticket to Singapore for a chance to join the Uniquely Singapore Roulette.

THE NATIONAL. Association of Independent Travel Agencies (Philtas) hold their first general membership meeting at the Ceremonial Hall of Manila Hotel recently. In photo are Philtas president Angel Ramos Bugnot (center) and Travel Sit'Leisure Mart (second from left) with guests Mexican Third Secretary and Consul Miguel A. Quezada Superberry CEO Ava Engel, Philippine Airlines SVP Henry Sy, Dominican Republic Consul George Litton, and Republic of Albania Consul Sabrina Bendekou.

Mas masaya na ngayon ang iyong love life!

Voice TXT Love Quotes

Ang dating 'di mo masabi, kayang-kaya na!

Just text QUOTE to 8970 P1.50/text

Kaya saan ka pa this Valentine's kundi dito kung saan mas masaya kasi kahit tongue-tied ka, mailalabas mo pa rin ang iyong nadarama — SMART Buddy!

DAHIL SMART TAYO

Palawan's Club Noah is the perfect place for weary city couples

MY HUSBAND enjoyed Intro Scuba as much he went for a second dive the next day.

NATURAL pool in a cave on Pinagbuyutan Island

Paradise up close

AN ANGEL praying for more fish

Text by Steph Bravo-Sandia
Photos by Chris and Steph Sandia

AS WE WALKED DOWN THE RESO [illegible] of Club Noah's piers, my husband and I heard strains of lively music coming from the beach welcoming us to the island. Ubin like a one as we walked down a line of singers and dancers dressed in bright-colored island wear (seashore only by their clothes).

I took nearly a thousand pictures all around the beautiful resort throughout the four days that my husband and I were there. (200 pictures on our first day alone) because each mountain and every beach poses serious challenge as the day progressed.

There were no bad pictures to be taken in Palawan, not with its dazzling white sand and its blue, blue sky, which turned into a beautiful shade of crimson at night. The bright-colored tanning beds were beautiful canvases on the azure waters, and you were surrounded by the vibrant colors of the trees and flowers. (I'll save to paint a picture of the enfolding landscape, I would simply run out of colors.

Different animals freely roamed the resort, from the elusive squirrel (yes, a Pinoy squirrel!) with its long, red, bushy tail, to the cute-as-a-toy monitor lizard and the occasional mandarin ducks, egrets, geese, swallows, cockatoos and rabbits.

It was particularly hard to take a snapshot of the cheeky squirrel. My husband spent a good part of the morning trying to get a decent picture. (One minute it was right in front of him, then it was gone as soon as he positioned himself to take a picture. It was like watching an episode of "Tom and Jerry.")

Palawan's Club Noah is the perfect place for weary urbanite couples. There is neither cable TV nor Internet access. What one gets is total isolation from the frenzy of city living—a return to simple pleasures. Your connection is with nature, and the "buzz" is swimming in a school of fish to chat your natural environment.

The club offers a variety of activities to fill up your days. There are cave tours, fishing, fish feeding and island hopping. But the more adventurous, there is an assortment of water-sports such as intro scuba, scuba diving, snorkeling, windsurfing and kayaking.

I'm not a very good swimmer, so I was hesitant to try [illegible] scuba, but I didn't want to kick myself later either for chickening out. As a first timer, it took me some time to get used to breathing through a regulator mask. You had to kind of "suck" in the air and remember to breath slow and easy, lest you risked hyperventilating.

I held on to the divemaster's arm rigidly as we descended, 5, 10, 15 feet. All you could hear underwater were the bubbles coming out of your regulator. Pretty soon, though, my death grip loosened as I was overwhelmed by the beauty of the underwater kingdom. It was an otherworldly experience to be surrounded by different tropical fish, which you only get to see in aquariums.

Family atmosphere

And for that perfect, worry-free vacation, the staff is always on hand to cater to your needs and desires. At night, as couples dine under the stars, they also render special performances of unique Palawan songs and dances. Before long, you get so familiar with each staff member, you start to feel like family.

On our last day, they were at the pier to sing us on our last song as we boarded the banca. We couldn't stop waving goodbye.

The remarkable wildlife that inhabits Spratly Island and the diverse marine life in its surrounding waters make Club Noah a veritable Garden of Eden. Every day that my husband and I spent there created a lasting memory.

Together we were able to do many firsts, like scuba diving, snorkeling in a pool beside a cave, rimjaping on a candlelit beach and receiving an ultra-romantic dinner for two in a secluded part of the beach. Our four short days at Club Noah brought us closer together than any other vacation we've had in the past.

Palawan is a tropical place, and its beauty is beyond the power of words to portray or of pictures to capture. I have heard people say that paradise lies in Bali or the Mediterranean. I have been to neither of those places, but I need not go far to experience paradise for myself, as such a place exists in our very own Philippines.

Iseel provides daily flights from Manila to Tayabas, El Nido, Busuanga and Puerto Princesa, Palawan. Call (632) 6698 300.

Club Noah Isabelle is on Apulit Island, Taytay, Northeastern Palawan. Call 8436068 or 8944446.

CAFE Isabel on the western side provides guests a breathtaking view of the Palawan sunset.

GUESTS stay in air-conditioned cabanas on stilts, with a view of Tayang Bay.

AN EGRET fishing for its breakfast

THE VIEW from our cabana. What a way to start the day!

SUNDOWNERS Sarova Pier, jump-off point for snorkelers and divers

SPOTLIGHT at Tropicana Pier

SERENE Pier, where snorkellers and divers can take a break

Sunday LIFESTYLE

SUITE Fusion room package at Holiday Inn Galleria at only P5,000+ per night

Geomancer talks about prospects for 2007

Filipino SOUL MASTER VICtor Dy will be Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila's special guest at Xin Tian Di Chinese Restaurant on Feb. 18, the Chinese New Year.

Dy will conduct seminars at lunch and dinner to share his insights and remedies for a more successful 2007.

His lectures will focus on what's in store for certain businesses in 2007. He will also discuss what types of businesses will prosper.

Dy has authored a number of feng shui books that have been translated into various languages. He has held seminars in Munich, Austria and Switzerland, and has published the Chinese almanac—a yearly feng shui planner—that is marketed in major cities in the United States.

Some of his most popular books include "Feng Shui for Everybody," "The Secrets of Chinese Business Are Revealed" and "Nine Pillars of Destiny Revealed."

Besides his lectures, Dy is also a well-known consultant for home and site selection. On "Four Pillars of Success" analysis, natal chatting, wedding date selection and how to choose your name. Master Dy's books will be on display Feb. 13-18 at Xin Tian Di restaurant.

Call 6357222, The Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila is at the corner of Ortigas Avenue and EDSA across adjacent to Robinson's Galleria Mall.

VICTOR Dy

Meanwhile, the Crowne Plaza's sister hotel, Holiday Inn Galleria Manila, is rolling out the red carpet for Valentine celebrations.

From Feb. 13-16, couples can enjoy a choice of Valentine set menus, coupled with a complimentary glass of wine and a bit. about Valentine keepsake at the Holiday Inn Galleria's new 360 restaurant Heavenly Tastes at Raphael's Cafe. On Feb. 14, lucky couples dining at HIG will be given a chance to pick from a bowl of flowers to win a two-night stay at Holiday Inn Clark.

For those who wish to stay close and lounge around the next day, the Suite Fusion room package is ideal at only P5,000+ per night. The package comes with dinner for two at IPM restaurante, American breakfast in your suite through room service, complimentary bottle of wine, and 15-percent off on Swiss Spa services.

And to cap off the evening for more fun and relaxation, SoUND will be featuring live entertainment every night Feb. 13-17. On Feb. 14, a hilarious comedy band takes center stage with Chris Owen titled "My Funny Valentine." For those who dine at IHG, or those checked in at the hotel on Feb. 14, the cover charge will be waived upon presentation of same-day receipts or room key. Tickets to "My Funny Valentine" shows are available at Ian.ORS for only P600 per person, inclusive of a chocolate dessert buffet and complimentary round of drinks.

Advance reservations are recommended. Call 6357111.

Year of the women

Feng shui prospects favor women in politics and business

By Alec T. Vergara

HOW MUCH LUCKIER CAN President Macapagal-Arroyo and American Senator Hilary Rodham-Clinton get in the Year of the Pig?

If predictions of Mandarin Oriental's resident feng shui master Joseph Chan are any indication, the two accomplished politicians will continue to shine and surpass their male rivals in the weeks and months ahead.

Both women need all the luck in the world as the Philippine president faces a confidence vote in May when her senatorial foes square off with those of the opposition's, while Clinton, who wants to become the first female president to US history competes in a crowded field of Democratic hopefuls in the November primaries.

Probably because he had learned his lesson well when his positive prognosis on the fate of then beleaguered President Joseph Estrada didn't pan out, Chan is far from specific this time. But he categorically states that women will be luckier than men in almost every aspect of public and private life.

As far as the hustle of the Philippine election are concerned, Chan is likewise evasive. Although he didn't discount the chances of male politicians making it, he advises them to work harder, know their respective "luck pillars," and make proper feng shui arrangements in their homes and offices as they run delicate their hustle-bustle.

"Women are the luckier sex this year, but that is generally speaking," Chan says. "Each person is composed of elements so everyone has his or her own luck. It's also important to factor in the year, month, date and time you were born to find your luck pillar."

As if to further eliminate himself from his supposedly fearless forecast, Chan/Sasay his predictions, he says, on a standard feng shui calendar that changes annually, but has "5,000 years" of Chinese tradition behind it up.

Lucky ladies

Apart from the "yin fire pig," 2007 (which, based on the Chinese lunar calendar, begins Feb. 18) dawns on the birth of three other Chinese zodiac signs: the monkey of the tiger, the day of the snake and the time of the goat. So, where do women come in?

All these factors, says Chan, indicate that the money or wealth one is located in the southwest, a location traditionally occupied by the yin, which, in turn, is symbolic of women—be they single, married, widowed or divorced.

"That's why all the ladies in the world in 2007 will be lucky in financial situations," says Chan. And that most probably includes the business of selling and distributing cabinet politicians.

Overall, he adds, businesses related to such elements as fire and water will experience considerable gains. Fire, if we're to be literal about it, involves electronics, appliances, gas, computers, restaurants and military products.

The water element, on the other hand, is identified with hotels, tourism, transportation, shipping, insurance, entertainment, communication networks, medical markets and cure markets.

"Since the fire in the pig (which the pig meets in) is an earth snake," he says, "businesses involved in metals like construction, jewelry, cars and medical equipment will also have a good year."

It will also be a banner year for such industries as garments, leather, furniture, fashion, publication, interior design, architecture and retailing (particularly for super- or hypermarkets).

"Guys should pay special attention to their residences since the southeast direction or yang (symbolic of man) harbors a conflict star," Chan cautions.

Aside from being cautious, adds Chan, guys should maintain a generally low profile this year. And here's another piece of good news for the ladies: Men should be patient with their wives or girlfriends.

As far as health is concerned, the so-called rainbow sector is in the center of the "magic square." Thus, Chan cautions believers to fortify their bodies against such ailments involving the respiratory, spinal and nervous systems. Most people will also be prone to insomnia, digestive problems and even food poisoning.

Back-stabbing

And ladies, especially our esteemed politicians, listen up: "They should be concerned about the back-stabbing star, when people want to talk behind their backs."

How to let such a problem? Blitzer you feed them hypocrites or the pigs eat. If you're to follow Chan's advice, put six Chinese emperor coins in the corner of your home or office.

If back-stabbing is a form of disease, then it's rare to meet its match, as the six emperor coins are an ideal foil to the sickness star. (Those and other lucky charms and feng shui diaries are available at the Mandarin Oriental's Yu Feng Shop of Harmony. Zodiac Inside presents general predictions and how those born in other years will fare in the Year of the Pig.)

What about calamities? The country need not brace itself for more earthquakes given that this will be the year of the pig. (But we should people include thousands in inches [roasted pig]. Whether it's the year of the pig or not, we aim to increase its delusional!)

"Special attention should be given to the northeast. Fire is northeast of the monkey, on a particular trip," says Chan. "This particular position is prone to serious disasters." Based on this, there would be "fire, flooding and incidents of bird flu."

Meanwhile, Mandarin Oriental Intl. (TSE8603) heralds the coming year with traditional Chinese festivities Feb. 17, starting 11 p.m., involving the entire city of Makati.

Festivities will kick off with a prosperity parade around the hotel to be led by Makati mayor Jejomar Binay and Mandarin Oriental GM Helmut Gudenrath.

The evening's highlights will include a pool-side ceremony by Chan, fireworks display and dragon dancers, dragon and lion dances, and a 15-minute fireworks show. As an added feature, there will also be a parade of scantily-clad girls along the area.

Apart from shopping at the night market in the hotel parking area, guests can also indulge themselves in all sorts of "lucky" food at the hotel's Tin Hau restaurant.

Customers are also invited to dress up a piggy doll or figurine and, thus, get the chance to win a piggy bank and receive the "first lucky coin"—from Chan himself.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

Pateros'

"FOR YEARS AGO, 28 1997, A group of young men and women revived the Pateros de Sta. Maria de Pateros, which has been inactive for 20 years. The membership was due to the fact that members were growing old and dying.

Itong Quiapo as president and his friend Lowenson Castillo as vice president, together with Chrissy Pangilinan and other friends, formed a new Pateros de Sta. Maria de Pateros to take care of the fiesta of the saint on July 29. Pateros in Spanish means "pawns," pitchers returning to the pioneer Sta. Maria had once a crocodile that ate the chanks in the river.

Pateros used to be called Aguha, a small barrio of Pasig. In the 1960s Pateros began to celebrate the liturgical feast of the saints on July 29. The town's fiesta is marked on the second Sunday of July. Between 4 when the full moon is expected to illuminate the "pagoda sa dag."

Today Lola Concordia Castillo takes care of painting out for the fiesta, the statue of a young Sta. Maria owned by the Pateros. The organization helps Lola Concha in the costly de festejos. Since the Pateros River had dried up, there is no more pagoda at dag. Instead there is a pagoda as dam.

The town fiesta on the second Sunday of February, which is noting Sunday of "Pateros pa rin kami sa Pateros." So Pateros has two fiestas, the second being the liturgical feast of Sta. Maria.

History

It is said that in Agoho that ing and bab cling to the the Pateros' a possible de Pa church talisers, Tarug, a bis mills, Fronoz.

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The Pateros to Santa Mar mass billed a hailed a boyfr ers-their-mi of a local pr pray to Santa rubia/cabeza Tarug, a bis mills, Fronoz.

Celebration

The Pateros sary celebrat Nochnoch, P ni our drew an inspirat would be an novenas in Ta of Sta. Maria. The liturgi

Going for the gold

By Mariebelle Roque-Lutz
Contributor

THEY MET, THEY SUFFERED, THEY rejoiced.

More than half of St. Therese's College-QC's graduating class of 1957 recently celebrated their golden jubilee. Now they are urging the rest of the 50th anniversarians: Go, go, go to our homecoming next year.

Caught that appointment, that fair one. If you're abroad, fly home.

This is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with your youthful past (if you're afraid you won't recognize each other because you (or they) have gained weight and gotten wrinkled and old, don't fret.

The 45 Class '57 members who "came home" last month to their alma mater on 8 Scout Borromeo proved you'll recognize each other—if not immediately, then within the minutes.

Just like what happened to them at the moment of recognition, you will feel as good because they will recognize the youthful you, the one they used gamboree to when you graduated a lifetime ago.

"This is the best part (of coming home)—the instance of recognition," said Immaculate Tighe Bolinao, now a Canadian citizen.

The classmates got reacquainted before Homecoming Day, Jan. 27, at dinner gatherings, song practices, door-to-door visits and outings, a welcome dinner for balikbayans, the balikbayans' sisterhood picnic at Tagaytay for the "locals" and the general reunion at STC's school gymnasium.

When the big day came, they were one close-knit group of mature-looking women finding like their 15-year-old former selves.

"No one has really changed. We're reuniting where we left off 50 years ago," Isabel Villanueva, a retired schoolteacher from the school district of New York, said.

Credit for Class '57's successful celebration should go to the 28 members of the class who continued to keep in touch after graduation through yearly homecomings at STC.

But their silver jubilee, 25 attended; the dark 40th anniversary, 17 came. Eleven found ease to attend the 45th anniversary.

Knowing that year to begin plans for their 50th anniversary, the group decided things had to change. They had heard that the silver jubilarians, led by Emma Sanchez, were celebrating with a big bang, ending with a fireworks display. So for their part, they vowed to make sure they'd get as many of their 77 living classmates to come home and preserve a class program, one echoing the music and sentiments of the '50s.

Led by Ambassador Delia Moore-Rimel, Charito Quirino-Guevara, Myrna Sarong-Arella, Bernice Yang-Cua, Rosie Jocson-Suntay and Flavie Ojeda-Benedicto, the group wrote letters and e-mailed classmates with known addresses. Those in turn helped locate more "lost" classmates. The result: 17 bulletinyans flew home including one from Switzerland and another from Australia.

Graduation day, March 23, 1957, was relished. There was no music and no graduation march. The class was mourning the deaths in a plane crash earlier that year of classmate Aileen Cahill Pharaon's father, Gen. Tomas Cahill, and chairman Lucille Bacon Reyes' uncle, President Ramon Magsaysay.

"We are making up for it tonight by dancing the Virginia reeling and greeting we senior citizens are still spightly," Carmen Alcuaz Reyes said to introducing the program. Afterward, the entire class went onstage to lip-synch a medley of love songs they had taped earlier, ending with the nostalgic "Gold on Deep" from the '50s movie, "Student Prince."

Besides after Homecoming Day, the group is still in a golden jubilee mode, thanks to innumerable pictures taken by dozens of cameras, a souvenir book containing class and non-photos and writeups, and CDs and DVDs of the unforgettable affair.

Back in her New Jersey home, Dr. Hazel Cua is recalled, "I look at me on my book every day."

As for the bold hopes still in Manila, the lunches and dinners, the picture taking and the exchange of gifts continue.

TWENTY-SEVEN high-school golden jubilarians pose at St. Therese's College QC chapel after Mass on Homecoming Day.

TEM at Class '57's 12 doctors: Norma Mendoza Dee, Hazel Cua, Celia Tiangco Bell, Marylou Javier, Monica Ramchit Ruivivar, Josie Cruz Pecache, Mila Mendoza Clyne, Zenny de Leon Manansan, Ping Jacinto Kenyon and Aurora Noriega

STC-QC golden jubilarians Manansan, Bernice Yang Cua, Rosie Jocson Suntay, Rosie Jocson Benedicto, Meringo, Charito Quirino Guevara, Mariebelle Roque-Lutz and Elena Montaan pose with their teachers, Mmes. Mariano, Pena and Lopez.

Mardi Gras in Makati

A GRAND CELEBRATION AWAITS party lovers at the Strip in Greenbelt 2, Ayala Center, Feb. 17. The Mardi Gras, which comes after the very successful and first-ever New Year's bash at the Strip, will be all about fun, food and dance.

Mardi Gras or Carnivale is the world-famous merry-making held annually in New Orleans in the US, Rio de Janeiro in Brazil, and Trinidad and Tobago in the Caribbean; in the Philippines, similar festivals are the air-ribbon in Baliuag, Aliw, moving in Cebu City and dinagyang in Iloilo.

This Mardi Gras at the Strip will have an assortment of treats such as an all-night-long rendition of Latin and Spanish melodies by Latin Mambi Tribu Mestiza and Tropicana, as well as performances by bagpipers, stilt-walkers and fire-eaters.

If you want a more highly energized weekend, come to the Strip starting 11 p.m. and enjoy the street party!

This event is a continued effort of Ayala Greenbelt Malls, Resonance Restaurant and People.

Call 7288606 or 8857415.

RP hosts int'l club

MARRIOTT HOTEL MANILA RESORT AND Hotel and the Mandaluyong Hash House Harriers present the Philippines Hash Hash 2007 meeting Feb. 18.

This is the very first time that the international event will be hosted by Mandaluyong Beach Resort and Hotel.

The Hash House Harriers is an international drinking and running club founded in 1938 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The runs were patterned after the traditional British public school "paper chase" that involves a hare pursued by a pack of harriers.

Today, there are almost 1,300 hashes found in almost all major cities in the world.

The Philippines Hash Hash 2007 features dinner-overnight hashes Feb. 16-18, a choice of short, medium, long and ball-buster trails complete with drink stops and hash-house-country scenes; selection of fresh fruit served at the end of each trail; dress all you can eat buffet-style meals; ice-cold beer; and drinks served from noon to midnight Feb. 16-17 and Feb. 18, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Registration fee is US$85 or P3,000 (tel. 7925252, 10 8080, 7316883-85. Visit website www.manilahhh.com.

PB...ROY Rosales (second from right) with members of the Padores de Sto. Niño Fiesta Magsaysay, Zambales Merced with son Justin...Billy Francisco, Lawrence Castillo, Peter Reyes, Maloi Guerra, Lester Cagalingan, Rex Magat, Cristy Pangilinan, Kevin Argarde, Reynaldo Samaniego, Benj Quinque, Rodney Antonio, Victor Merced and Pacito Reyes (inset, at right photo). Santo Niño, patron saint of Padores and of the household

PURELY PERSONAL
Josephine Dorsay

powerful patron saint

on July 23

...ion the main industry ...time was dark cur... ...making (pots and ...did), which was why ...called the barrio of ...ion or the town of ...

...the town, people were ...a ferocious crocodile ...river of Bambang and ...They sought the advice ...ent who told them to ...Maria, the saint who ...named the Tarascon ...monster creature in Mar... ...in the 1700s.

...folk made a devotion ...). Then, a courageous ...the croisane and was ...ed. In thanksgiving, the ...ored every year a fiesta ...Santa Maria to com... ...event, in the second ...January when there are... ...moon and the sun was ...

...ed to 10th anniver... ...on Mr. X. Dano ...ncerns historian, point... ...was a full moon then, ...a sign that prayers ...answered. Mr. pagoni s... ...ging before the image ...

...recounted on audio, ...was brought to the room at the beginning of the program to the tune of the Intsiangan. Dancers who ...rod her around and danced in thanksgiving and supplication.

I danced, too, and prayed for something. Stella Hass, who brought me there, also prayed.

The Sacramental de Inmaculada Concepcion de Bambang performed the ritualistic, a scene in the New Testament where Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. The ritualistic was sung in Tagalog.

Fr. Rey Nicanor, rector of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Pasig, said it was good that the Padores helped keep alive the tradition attached to the devotion. Those who want redemption or want to join Padores can text Rosy at 0915-9122213 or Lawrence at 0915-4431150 or write him at 236-E Rosario St., Brgy. San Patricio, Metro Manila. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Text Mary

Thousands text their petitions through the Text Mary Community. Many express gratitude to Jesus and Mary for abundant graces received and for answered prayers.

Part of the proceeds from Text Mary goes to the construction and maintenance of The Way of Mary, a network of 20 shrines, each representing a mystery of the Rosary, from the Edsa Shrine to the Basilica of Our Lady in Antipolo.

A legacy of the late Jaime Cardinal Sin, the series of 12-hour-all-night shrines is expected to be completed next month.

To join Text Mary, simply text MARY and send to 2600.

Pila shrines

Cora Bebera says a community in her hometown in Pila, Laguna, has made the church beautiful by concerted effort. A group of women, including Cora herself, meets once a week to clean the St. Anthony de Padua Shrine.

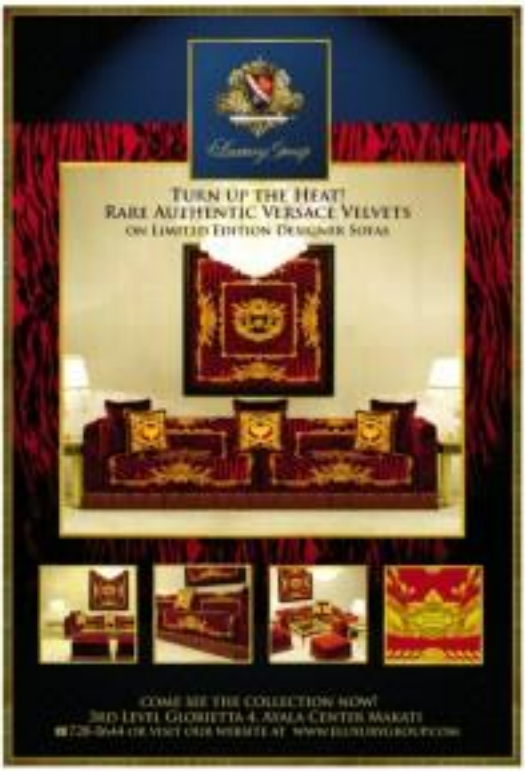
Brother Pete, tonight called Total Pet, faithfully cares for the heart-shaped garden in front of the giant Sacred Heart statue in the middle of the town plaza.

Boasted by Cora's great grandmother Concepcion Dato Bebera in 1802, the Sacred Heart draws people day and night.

The Diocesan Shrine of St. Anthony de Padua has a new parish priest. Msgr. Mario Castillo replaced Msgr. Melchor Inventor, once rector of the San Pablo Cathedral and vicar general of the Diocese of San Pablo. Pilgrims visit the shrine, especially on the first Tuesday of the month.

Mass

A special Mass will be celebrated 9th, 12, 3 p.m., at the Sta. Maria Chapel in Harrison Plaza Mall owners Tony and Bebs Mariel are devotees of Our Lady of Lourdes



IL DIVO takes center stage at the PICC Plenary Hall, delighting the Manila audience with their unique blend of classical pop

It seemed as if they had been singing together since birth. Not three but four Italian-Latin blends from Spain, Swiss Urs Buhler, American David Miller, and French pop singer Sebastien Izambard – the dashing quartet that composes Il Divo.

Despite the difference in nationality and culture, the four women sang as one, enthralling Manila's elite when Smart Infinity brought Il Divo to town as a one-night only performance at the PICC Plenary Hall dubbed "Il Divo: Live in Manila."

"Smart Infinity is honored to present this unique world class act to Manila," said Emily Medina, Head of Smart Wireless Consumer Division. "Our brand aims to give subscribers nothing but the best in premium service and this spectacular performance by Il Divo only reaches the zest for excellence that Smart Infinity represents."

From the moment Il Divo marched into the opening notes of "Regresa a Mi" to the final strains of their pop opera version of the Frank Sinatra classic, "My Way," the crowd was ecstatic.

"Judging from their thrilling performance and the warm audience response, you can say that Il Divo has won Manila over," added Mejia.

Il Divo has been enjoying sweetheart success worldwide since the release of their debut album in 2004. The Manila performance is one of the few Asian stops in their ongoing World Tour.

The gala event was graced by no less than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who shared for the encore show. Also present were Vice President Noli de Castro with his wife Arlene, US Ambassador Kristie Kenney, and US Ambassador Peter Burleigh, who sat with Jill. Top executives from Smart Communications, Inc. (SMART) were in full force, led by President and CEO Napoleon Nazareno. Chief Operations Advisor Don Rae and PLDT's Ricardo Jimenez.

Spotted enjoying the evening were former San Life Financial President Lorraine Yap, former San Life Chairperson Estee Tan, Market Manager Lu Esmeralda Mangaoang-Dugan, McDonalds' George Tang, Bailey Roy and Lilia Jacinto, MTV's French Gomez with daughter Jessamyn, MAN Washington Sy-Ip and mall magnate Henry Sy.

The three-day encounter's crème of celebrities, including television executive Charo Santos, actresses pair Richard and Lucy Gutierrez-Gomez, young star Anne Curtis, TV news people Ashley and Tin Tin Bolivar, actress Carmi Martin, and top news anchor Mel Tiangco.

Smart Infinity subscribers were rewarded with premium seats to the exclusive show, which was capped with an encore performance of the Harry Potter theme, "Without You," and the Barbra Streisand original, "Somewhere," the same piece they performed when the handpicked three reprised their recent concert tour in the US. as Streisand herself said, "They're cute and have beautiful voices. What more can you ask for?"

"To end the memorable evening, the show's finale received a standing ovation and a serenade of rose petals. Cheers to Il Divo and Smart Infinity," said Julie Carcelles, Department Head of Infinity Business Group.

Il Divo Live in Manila was truly a five-star event from Smart Infinity, once more showcasing passion for the best in life.

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and group photograph along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the Inquirer, PO Box 2263 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required for wedding that already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and/or are sent in the order.

TORRES-LUPERA

Aaron Torres, son of engineer Arvilloso and Rufina Torres, married Anneleen Lupiba, daughter of Rogelio and Imelda Lupiba, on Dec. 15 at the Iglesia ni Cristo Sta. Barbara Locale, Bulhang, Batangas. Reception was held at the Grand Ballroom of S Mirror Hotel and Water Park in San Rafael, Bulacan.

BARRANDA-ANDRES

Pura Barranda and Perla Andres exchanged vows on Nov. 25 in a Japanese-inspired wedding at the Nuestra Señora de Gracia Guadalupe.

ROXAS-PONCE

Carlos Luis Stephen Roxas and Jan Abigail Ladores Ponce were wed recently at the Parish of St. James the Great in Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa. Msgr. Gerardo O. Bautista officiated. Reception was held at the Grand Ballroom of The Palms Country Club.

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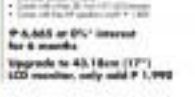

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EMILY'S POST
Emily Marcelo

Glitch in cyber romance

DEAR EMILY,

My problem is about a guy I met on the Internet almost a year ago.

Contrary to some Internet relationships, ours is getting stronger every day. He is in the United States and he makes it a point to call me three times a week. I opened my heart to him, telling him of my longings, my fears, and he did the same.

I admire his intelligence, he admired my goodness and my courage. But he can get over a tragedy that happened last year. He hustled and he wants to come and visit me here in the Philippines this year. He already made plans and that is my problem.

I told him only half of my life story. I lied for fear of losing him. He thinks I am single. I did not tell him I'd been separated for 17 years and had four kids.

What shall I do? I love him and I know he loves me, too. I tried to tell him in a subtle way to take his time and not to rush here. I am afraid to face him and tell him the truth. He was disappointed because he needed to be with me.

Every day I am assailed by guilt feelings for leading him on. He is so honest about his life. He introduced me to his friends and let me talk to them over the phone. I know that if we meet I will surely lose him more.

I don't know how he will accept the life I tried so hide from him. I have my own reasons for lying to him. It has something to do with the tragedy that happened last year.

BG

Ponder deeply and ask yourself why in heaven's name you should be afraid to tell him the truth if he's really an honest-to-goodness to him. And what are your tragedy last year that affected your truth goes?

With all the "having" you two were doing between yourselves, why couldn't you have dumped some more bold statements he needed to know about you and your life, instead of scurrying home to your home and trying to hide who you truly are—a separated woman with four children.

Learn from high school geometry the concept that the shortest distance between two points is a straight line. Only then could you truly empathize about his goodness if he still accepted you despite the heavy baggage you were bringing into this relationship.

It's never too late though. You can still send a statement of a message with this not-so-shocking truth. Cause your lies, pero that he'll accept you with open arms after you've bared your soul with an overabundance, ever.

Then, sing your hallelujahs. I'll even help you have him convinced. But see before knowing his true persona after making him bear the truth.

E-mail the author at marcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Library, or send your letters to Inquirer, Libis or Ms. Marcelo co-hosts the program "Kwentuhan Ngalawan," 7-9:30 AM p.m., Monday-Friday on dzBB 1161 AM.

Win cash in bridal fair

GET A CHANCE TO WIN A P25,000 cash gift by making an on-the-spot booking at Weddings & Debuts 2007, Feb. 16-18 at the SM Megamall Hall 2.

You may also win one of two P1,000 cash gifts for booking on the fair's first day.

Weddings & Debuts Bridal Fair, organized by The Wedding Library and held every second or third weekend of February, is now on its third year.

Every P5,000 worth of payments at the bridal fair will entitle couples to one raffle coupon. After making a booking with any exhibitor, couples or their representatives must present the document at the Organizer's Booth to get their raffle coupons. Entries submitted on Feb. 18 will be eligible for both the Friday Extravaganza Draw and the Grand Raffle Draw.

More than 175 suppliers are participating in the fair.

Apply for free entrance by registering at www.weddingdebut.com.ph or by sending your name by text to 0915.811.1508.

The raffles are covered by DTI-NCR Permit #AA1-05 s Series of 2006 of the Department of Trade and Industry National Capital Region

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Bonnie D. Velarde

'Narnia' Faun all grown up, is married & has sexy roles

JAMES McAVOY

...and he wants to 'kill' his 'Scotland' co-star Forest Whitaker, who has 'robbed' him of awards

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Rahnu V. Sepulveda

LOS ANGELES—"I WANTED TO KILL him," James McAvoy jokingly said of Forest Whitaker, his co-star in "The Last King of Scotland," who has been sweeping the best actor races.

James, who on his own also could be in that film, has been left out in the acting nominations. "I felt like [in Dhaka] I had robbed me," quipped the actor with a smirking smile in a recent press conference.

The guy was not the only thing appealing about this actor, best known as Mr. Tumnus, the faun in Disney's blockbuster, "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe." His feelings were transparent on his face. That is also what makes him one of the best emerging actors—for in-person fare easily evokes a thousand empathy or emotion-text. Interest in his character.

James' spontaneity on and off the camera is a plus, too. In his own words "Studio for Two," where he plays a seeking-class kid who makes it to an upper-class British university and is on TV quite down his natural charm shines through. For on a date in an Italian restaurant with a blonde school mate (Alice Eve), James picks up a breadstick, pretends to smoke it like a cigarette and discusses her. After the date, he invites her to dance in front of her dorm—Shaftesque, totally disarming.

The Yale-bloke-produced romantic comedy is charming and also leaves his hometown the subject—and a gig on "University Challenge," UK answer to "Jeopardy," because as entertaining entertainers on jocularity, also, discussing love classes' character is attained on two words. After some ego engaging Rebecca Hall and the dilettante knowledge his knowledge's edge is for wisdom" bit in the 1930s, "Starter..." to speed up with roles from The Lion, The Diablo, Trust No Brain and others.

This lead role in "Starter" and other upcoming flicks are sure to make him known beyond the wholesome boy-next-door, ball-girl "friend" character James' role as thriller Idi Amin's doctor in "Last King," which entailed a graphic sex scene with Kerry Washington, has earned him wider recognition. He earned a Best Supporting Actor nod at the BAFTA Awards to be handed out today in London, outside the talk home.

The Scotland native hotly denarked his new flick, where he landed some of the most challenging roles: Tyday on alcoholic gambling addict who

JAMES McAvoy stars with Rebecca Hall in the romantic comedy set in the 1960s, "Starter for Ten."

Do the lucky one. He made time in November last year. She works a stint as intern as well. Her name is Anne-Marie Duff. Ah not on a TV show either! "Shameless." We played lovers and became lovers. It's been pretty much happy ever since.

So you got a different reaction now from fans since you played Mr. Tumnus the Faun in "Narnia"?

There's been a big departure from that role. I'm getting a lot more romantic lead roles, hopefully. I'll be allowed to make that change and that means

tion and people won't be too disappointed that I'm not playing talents-eared fauns.

With morphing more towards lead roles, you are presumably getting attention from female fans...

I try not to think of it. I'm sure that has happened to lots of actors.

Reviews for your performance in "The Last King of Scotland" were so good as Forest

LOS ANGELES—HIP-HOP DIVA Mary J. Blige is expected to dominate when pop music's most prestigious awards show, the Grammys, takes place here today (tomorrow in Manila).

The 10-year-old rhythm-and-blues star is up for prizes in eight categories, including Best Record and Song of the Year, where "Be Without You" is up against entries from James Blunt, Gnarls Barkley, The Dixie Chicks and Gwen Stefani/Eve.

Blige's platinum-selling "The Breakthrough" is also expected to snag the Best R&B Album Award. The album has sold more than 2.7 million copies in the US alone since its late 2005 release.

Roll call

Our wild guesses as the glitterling gala, along with other stars including Christina Aguilera, Beyonce, the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Pacific Timberlake and Gnarls Barkley:

British singer James Blunt and country trio the Dixie Chicks are among the awards rock and have also been nominated in the record and song of the Year categories.

Blunt is nominated for "You're Beautiful"; the Dixie Chicks for "Not Ready To Make Nice."

The Dixie Chicks are also up for albums of the Year, where their "Taking the Long Way" is competing against Gnarls Barkley's debut "St. Elsewhere," DJ Shadow's "The Outsider," Gwen Stefani's "The Sweet Escape," Dj Mustard's "Stadium Arcadium" and Justin Timberlake's "Futuresex/Lovesounds."

Other artists seen as leading contenders, with five nominations each, are Beyonce, Imogen Heap, Prince, Rich Robinson, Lupe and John Williams.

Paul McCartney makes an appearance in the Best White Pop Record. Performance category, while Bob Dylan is vying with Tom Petty and Heartbreakers for Best Solo Rock Vocal Performance.

Considered the music world's equivalent to the Oscars, the Grammys offer prizes in 108 categories covering country, pop, rock, gospel and rap. AFP

CHRISTINA AGUILERA

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Your life as a movie

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Brutal Web reaction to Anna Nicole's death

SAN FRANCISCO—MINUTES AFTER WORD of the death of recipient-crazed celebrity Anna Nicole Smith, the blogosphere began the autopsy of a life lived in the headlines, and the resident mantel in all genres.

From different corners of the Internet, commentators who once considered Smith worthy only of off-color jokes purported to work out the deeper cultural meanings of her death. Most were up brutally-done.

Instead many observers reveled in jokes about the size of the former Playboy model's breasts or the extent of her drug problems.

Blog search site Technorati.com showed mentions of Anna Nicole Smith spiked fivefold on Thursday, AOL.ca listed more 44,000 mentions. Smith's name more only one month the flying star power of pop music sensation Britney Spears.

The excesses gave free rein to the paradoxy-mean mongrel, which panels for informed commentary on the Web. "Poor Nicole Smith's accidents downgraded to dead," one writer on news commentary site Gab.com oddly noted.

Part commentator "Liberty Culprit" posted a photo of a boarded whale entitled "Hollywood autopsy photo." TMZ.com bemoaned how Smith's last movie, "Illegal Alien," set to be released in April, may now be in doubt.

AOL was quick to provide a trailer of the film.

Reuters

What she owes

Local shots his owner to somewhere Pia Cesario said VK Soto admitted they were an item.

In the month's issue of Kinde Cinter magazine, Pia says there was no intention of keeping it secrets, anyway.

"Well would be dishing out, going to movies to hill-town of everyone," Pia says. "I may people an explanation when it comes to my career, but not my personal life."

Still not buried

COLUMBIA, South Carolina—Jarnes Brown's parents, his six adult children and trustees of his estate were scheduled to meet Friday in a courtroom to resolve disputes over his estate as the soul legend's remains still await burial.

Brown's partner, Tomo the Hynie, and his children are expect with the three longtime associates he turned as trustees. Attorneys also will argue whether Hynie, who claims she is Brown's fiancée with, can get access to Brown's South island home.

The singer's embalmed body remains in the same sealed, gold-colored crypt at his funeral.

Brown died of heart failure on Dec. 25 at age 73. AP

Scary love scenes

HONG KONG—Jet Li is uncomfortable too long for himself, but ask him to do a love scene and he senses one says he breaks out in a cold sweat.

Li, whose fitted his stately dried romantic acting in his latest 1990s blog montage about his new movie "Ci Hu."

The 43-year-old senior "When I read the script and came upon the lines, 'They could no longer hold back their true feelings, they embraced passionately, fervently kissing, stroking and consuming something,' I started sweating profusely because I had no idea how to do this."

He also recalled a difficult love scene when shooting the "Swordsman II." It said director Yuel Kirk asked him, "Why do you give me the impression that you're getting raped?" AP

No wedding, no divorce

NEW YORK—Jim Carrey says he and his girlfriend, actress Jenny McCarthy, are not planning to get married.

"We're never getting married, but we're never getting divorced, which is fantastic," the 45-year-old actor says on Tuesday's edition of "Access Hollywood."

Will he get her a ring at least? "I bought her a Chiver purse," he jokes. "Isn't that good enough?"

Carrey and McCarthy, 34, were public with their romance last year. She is a former Playboy playmate. AP

No to cheerleaders

SYDNEY—Oscar-winning Hollywood actor and phone-thrower Russell Crowe has avoided a sensitive side, acting scantily-dressed cheerleaders from his Sydney rugby league club because they make men uncomfortable.

Crowe, who co-owns the South Sydney Rabbitohs, one of Australia's oldest rugby league clubs, will replace the cheer girls this season with a drumming band of men and women after his wife Danielle Spencer said often in time complained. Reuters

ANNA NICOLE SMITH

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Romeo and Juliet

True love in Hollywood splitsville

MOST SHOWBIZ MARRIAGES START on the altar, but not up in divorce courts. Just ask Jennifer Aniston and Brad Pitt, Britney Spears and Kevin Federline.

Throw it on the drama, pressures, distractions and temptations of a glamorous life lived in the public eye. All that adds fame and fortune to the list of marriage wreckers!

In addition, quite a lot of stars think they're unlovable and undeserved people so that they actually fall in love—with themselves! If you're spoiled but by your twosome, what do you need a spouse for?

Another major distraction is provided by other stars who are so yummy as the shifts self-center. If you do—I bet some celebrities, like so many to get confused many and believe that it's the real thing!

Despite all of these temptations, the starring network is, some Hollywood marriages last for years and years. "Bravo" is on the durable-coupled subject to take the romantic history of the show has come recently, and their documentation is eagerness that private love from their public persona.

This Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward, Newman was a Golden Boy in his youth, and continued with some of the most dashing goddesses of the silver screen, including Elizabeth Taylor, Ava Gardner, Virginia Mayo, Jo Van Fleet, Piper Laurie, Pamela Tiffin and Katharine Ross...but he and Woodward have grown comfortably old together.

Meryl Streep is also famous for some plenty reporting her passion of the from the screen career. The has enabled her to raise a brood of healthy normal children among those the public eye, some as shell-be-verse one of the entertainment world's most celebrated partners.

She has just publicist beauty Goose Hilly and her show of shoes with her leading men.

But where the scariest Prince Rainier of Monaco, she decided to give up all to wanda distractions, and focused on being the best princess ever, dutifully losing her royal husband and children, until her death at age 69 in 1982.

Glenn Ashleigh role itself women self-centered, fickle prima-be media life—and to epitomize.

Dubbed the happiest one in Hollywood, Jack Antonoff married actress Debbie Rowe in 1996—and remained married to her until the confusion of their version of "forever."

What's the star still a totally teenager, Sophia Loren excited as an emcee in office produced by Carlo Ponti. He took one good, long look at her, and promptly launched her career as a film star. Even more definitively, he married her.

Sophia stayed up with the most modern movie brands out in the big camera, but she remained French at heart.

For many years, she struggled to convince Hollywood that she was more than a sex symbol. Even after she won an Oscar for "Two Women" in 1961, she was still being typecast as a sultry seductress.

Then, in 1966, she starred in "Arabesque" with Gregory Peck, and finally began to be taken seriously as an actress.

Sophia's marriage to Ponti was a stormy one, before finally giving birth to two sons. On the other hand, her marriage to Ponti, 22 years his senior, was conducted by the letters, and his Monsieur dinners from his first wife was not surprised, so Loren's private life has been decidedly Old-fashioned.

Like his lovers buddy Paul Newman, Robert Redford has been a one-woman man. After moving to Los Angeles early in his career, Redford fell in love with a 17-year-old cowgirlless, Lola, and married her—for keeps.

In an industry where rocky liaisons abound, the Redfords appear to have one of Hollywood's most stable marriages, which Redford attributes to the years they spent together before they became famous.

Tribute to movie greats

THE MOVIE Modern Million Foundation pays tribute to Filipino movie greats on Feb. 25 at the Ades Toronto Honorees include National Artist Amo Hernandez, Nora Aunor, Gloria Romero, Boots Anson-Roa, Eddie de la Torre and Carmen Rosales and Rosa del Rosario. Dolphy and former President Joseph Estrada.

Movie stalwarts will also pay homage to the memory of National Artist Fernando Poe Jr.

Performers and participants include Albert Martinez, Bembol Roco, Cesar Montano, Sen. Bong Revilla, Jericho Rosales, Rosanna Roces, Phillip Salvador and Tom Carvajal. The tribute is a benefit for the underprivileged Marvelland. If you want to help the movie million organizers, call 727-3963.

'Narnia' Faun ...

From page G1

Whitaker's parts today was getting all the awards.

I wanted to kill him [laughter]. I felt like he had robbed me. [laughter]. I'm in every scene and it's a fantastic part, but the role that really is going to capture the people's imagination is Mr. Tumnus.

Daniel Craig is performing in the stage play "Equus." Would you like a cameo appearance under an assumed name?

I've done it a few times and I would do it again. In the play I did at the Donmar Warehouse, "Private on Parade," I had to get my pictures on parade [laughter].

Could you give us your definition of the word "eclectic," which is heard in this film?

I think a student to someone who's a little bit in love with himself. If you don't really want to see someone in the arts, then maybe it's a good term because it's negative but can desperately hurtful.

As in the movie, did your friends sneer it when you left Glasgow to become an actor?

Mr. Jobs thought I was a wanker for going off and being an actor.

When you are with friends, do you try to downplay your success as an actor?

I try to be humble in front of them. I've got to show off to others [laughter].

One of the awkward moments of your character is when he tells this girl by the wrong name. Have you made that mistake too?

I once called a girlfriend Jessie in bed which was a little bit strange.

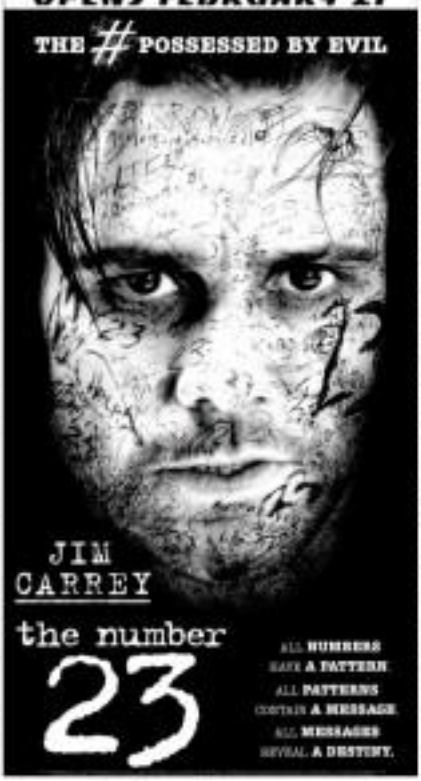
You called her Jessie?

Yeah, and then I called her Stephen. Did you know people with those names? Where did the names come from?

Jessie is my sister. I don't know where Stephen came from. I just plain drank.

E-mail the columnist at rsupalay_bulletin@yahoo.com.

OPENS FEBRUARY 21



ROUNDUP

'Portrait' docu

"Portrait: Rediscovering A Filipino Film Classic," a documentary on the making of the movie version of Nick Joaquin's 'O, Portrait of the Artist as Filipino," will be shown on Feb. 14, 1 p.m. at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Screen Theater (Tanghalang Manuel Conde).

The documentary is part of the 19th Cinemal CCP for Alternative Film and Video Festival, which runs from Feb. 13 to 16. Admission is free.

Butch Nolasco, recent CMMA winner for "Kiss 1986: Mga Tinig ng Himagsikan," directed the 20-minute docu, a historical and behind-the-scenes look at the production of the 1985 movie helmed by director Lamberto Avellana and produced by Manuel de Leon.

Call 832-1125 local 1702.

Greyskull tilt

Nokia's "Make It Reel" campaign will draw one winners of P100,000, who will also have the chance to sing along to Greyskull, a three-piece Texas Punk-Rock band from Dallas, for the Indie Music Festival in Singapore.

Participants should make a video of Greyskull's "Pretty In Ink" track and upload it to the Make it Reel Website.

Also at stake is a brand new Nokia N93i and the chance for the winning video to be showcased on TV.

feb-ibig
May Date Ka Na Ba?
Single ka man o taken, ngayong FEB-IBIG lagi kang may date!
Dahil pinuno namin ang buwan ng mga programa
na kasing laki at espesyal ng pag-ibig na iyong nadarama!
SUNDAY FEB. 11
YOUR SONG:
LOVE SPELL
THE BUZZ:
SUNDAY'S BEST Presents
MONDAY FEB. 12
MARIA FLORDELUNA
TUESDAY FEB. 13
YOU AND ME
The Christian Bautista
and Rachelle Ann Go
Valentine Concert
WEDNESDAY FEB. 14
KAPAMILYA
PROBE
SATURDAY FEB. 17
KABATAAN EXPRESS
NEW SHOW
LITTLE BOY SUPERSTAR
NEW SHOW
THE BATTLE OF CEBU
SUNDAY FEB. 18
YOUR SONG:
MONDAY FEB. 19
FAIRY TALE
POLICE DEPARTMENT
MIRMO SEASON 3
FRIDAY FEB. 23
MAALAALA MO KAYA
Starring:
Jericho Rosales
and Heart Evangelista
SATURDAY FEB. 24
THE BATTLE OF CEBU
Moment of Truth
SUNDAY FEB. 25
Pinoy Big Brother
Season 2
9:30pm
YOUR SONG:
Starring:
Judy Ann Santos
and Ryan Agoncillo
Pinoy
BigBrother
ABS-CBN

ENTERTAINMENT

CHOOSE YOUR Valentine SHOW

Williams: Come for the music

POPS FERNANDEZ

IT'S THAT TIME OF year. And so, once again, we are helping you pick the best show for that special date, by asking the concert artists who are going onstage what they have in store for audiences.

Pops Fernandez

"Here's A Song," with Ayo (Hiking Boots) and Jay-R, Feb. 13, Bird Ballroom, Makati Shangri-La. Call 813-8888 or 891-0999.

When you're not doing a concert, how do you celebrate Valentine's Day?

I don't celebrate it. Usually, I go out to dinner with other "single" friends. They treat — hopefully, we can make some celebrity appearance — if not, we'll just have an intimate dinner.

What's the most romantic Valentine's Day you've ever experienced?

Nothing stands out, really.

What's on ideal Valentine date?

A typical movie date, but then he'll blindfold you and surprise you with flowers and candles all around.

Who's your fantasy date?

Brad Pitt! But in a scenario where he chooses between me and Angelina Jolie. Might as well choose Big, right?

What's the most romantic love song?

Well, it isn't necessarily the most romantic, but it's my favorite. It gives me goose bumps and makes my heart skip a beat every time I hear it...Stephen Bishop's "It Might Be You" gets me all the time.

If you were not doing a show, who would you watch?

Among local artists, I'd pick Sharon Cuneta. I've never had the chance to watch her and I'd love to do that.

Why should we watch your show?

Because it's the best! Of course, a live performance with the Ayo is always a great experience. I have my style, Jay-R has his own technique and it's exciting to see when all of us will do our production numbers. (Reports: Inno Bingo Jr.)

Paul Williams

"The Great American Songwriters Series," with Ronnie Lumibao, Feb. 17, Central Bank Auditorium, Roxas City; Feb. 18, Lindayhel Center Atrium, Dagupan de Oro City; Feb. 21, Rizal Auditorium, Central Philippine University, Iloilo City; Feb. 24, Araneta Coliseum. Call 911-5555.

Where you're not doing a concert, how do you celebrate Valentine's Day?

Valentine's Day, like New Year's Eve, is not the sum-

PAUL WILLIAMS

out of holidays when you're about. I know there have been times in my life, especially in my 20s, when I dreaded those "couples" celebrations. So, for me there's a lot of reasons for the people who haven't found the right partner in life. I look at my beautiful Michael and say, "Thank you, God, for you were right." The man all is overcoming; I try to show my gratitude with more than just flowers or jewelry. I try to be a better husband and friend, a better listener, more patient. I'm still a work in progress!

What's the most romantic Valentine's Day you ever experienced?

Marissa and I were married on Valentine's Day at a gorgeous hotel in Washington D.C., called The Mansion. Chito Cuneta (my name director and best friend) was best man, our minister flew in to perform the ceremony, I gave a concert that night to support their reasons, and sang "Our Song" to her. Everybody cried, including me.

What's an ideal Valentine date?

Some place right on the water, hot waves kissing the shore, as the moonlight dances her approval. Moonlight, flowers ... gentle music ... dancing, of course. I'm an enthusiastic dancer with my lady in my arms. But I'm unskilled, but very enthusiastic. I think it's more fun to share at least part of the evening with friends. The consequence is forceful, and it's even more when they know the rest of you alone!

Who's your fantasy date?

Definitely! Tiger Woods! He'd have a nice little cup of coffee ... then I'd show him my gold swing ... Darn, he'd cry ... Then he'd slowly and gently touch me low to keep the ball in the middle of the fairway ... about 250 yards off the tee ... Darn, I'd cry.

The fact is, I woke up next to my fantasy date almost every morning...my beautiful wife.

What's the most romantic love song?

The Quotation "Someone To Watch Over Me" has always been at the top of the list. I've spent my life writing songs and that remains the most touching I've ever heard. Of my own songs, "Love Dance" (with Gino Lim) may be my personal fave. "Time, up the scale ... love would've danced" sets a lot I think.

If you were not doing a show, who would you watch?

I love wide musical styles. From the Sesame Streets to Tony Bennett ... I love Willy Nelson and Gene Pitney.

Why should we watch your show?

Come for the music.... Stay for the laughs. You bring the memories and I'll bring the songs. The best part of being a songwriter is ... the "front" payment ... is to have someone come to you with a personal story about your songs. To have "My mom was a single parent and 'You and Me Against the World' was her favorite song ..." or "My husband and I were married to 'Evergreen'" ... or "Our first dance was to 'He's Only Just Begun'" ... that's so good as it gets for a songwriter. It's a "Hall of Fame moment" for me as a songwriter. To quote myself, "you may have heard this in the new Coke Commercial," "You Have a Little Love and it All Comes Back to You."

"Random Connection" seems to have been a part of growing up for many people. I share my show with it. Recorded first by Barnet the Frog, it's been covered by Willy Nelson, The Dixie Chicks, Jason Mraz, Sarah McLaughlin ... It's an honor and a privilege to have been a part of people's lives. I thank the Lord every day for the privilege to write and to perform. And in advance ... I send my love and thanks to the people of the Philippines who choose to spend an evening with me. (Reports: Cinderella Baylon)

Rachelle Ann Go

"You and Me," with Christian Bautista, Feb. 14, Aliw Theater.

If you're not busy watching, how do you usually celebrate Valentine's Day?

I love my home and spend time with my family. Of course, this year before Christian [Bautista] came into the picture. Ha-ha!

Christian and I are both going to be busy on Valentine's Day, so we might not be able to go out on the day itself. We're planning to set aside another day for that.

What's the most romantic Valentine's Day you ever experienced?

Last year, when I did a show at the Music Museum, Christian waited for me for hours. And as my family and I were about to leave, he emerged from his car and handed me a dozen roses.

What's your idea of the perfect Valentine's Day date?

I'd like to enjoy a candlelit dinner with my special someone. I think the beach would be a romantic setting.

What's your dream date?

Aside from Christian? Ha-ha! It would have to be either Tom Cruise or Matthew Goode.

What's the most romantic love song?

"You," by Basil Valdez. That's love and Christian's theme song.

If you didn't have your own program, what show would you watch?

Valentine's Day concert, whose concert would you watch?

Hunter Cancio.

Why should we watch your show?

We will sing some of our favorite songs—featuring my song "You." We will also do a lot of duets. There will also be certain numbers no doggone up experienced.

RJ Jacinto

"Romance and Dance" at The Music Hub Club Music Lounge, Feb. 14; 8 p.m. Call 817-0051 or 890-3168.

RACHELLE ANN GO

Where you're not doing a concert, how do you celebrate Valentine's Day?

An elegant dinner out with my wife.

What's the most romantic Valentine's Day you ever experienced?

The first when I filled our bedroom with roses—white and pink.

What's an ideal Valentine date?

Valentine is like a season. You quiet down and start taking stock of your relationship. So my activity—an intimate dinner in for your together, talking about your relationship—is ideal.

Who's your fantasy date?

If I had not met my wife, maybe Angelina Jolie.

What's the most romantic love song?

"Softly, As I Love You."

If you were not doing a show, who would you watch?

Ahh.

Why should we watch your show?

It's the only Valentine show that has dancing all night and Pete Club 4 vibe, tons of cooking, comfortable with great company around you.

Ria Cerrudo

"The Love Concert" (for cancer patients and survivors) with the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra, Philamlife Theater, Feb. 14.

CHOOSE 1-5

FREE!

Valentine Card

Choose Your Valentine Show

Pentagon (4)

"Bright, Arts," Capitol's Bar of Mandarin Oriental, Feb. 13.

Where you're not doing a concert, how do you celebrate Valentine's Day?

I take my family to Tagaytay to enjoy the cool weather, a good dinner and some wine.

What's the most romantic Valentine's Day you ever experienced?

What my girlfriend (now my wife) planned on having some drinks in Antipolo, and my car would not make it up the steep slopes. So our way back down, I just sang her a song that touched her very much. We were married soon after.

What's an ideal Valentine date?

Watching the sunset on a beach, glass of wine in hand and my wife and son beside me.

BO CERALDO

HYMP

THE COMPANY

What's your fantasy date?

Penelope Cruz, Cameron Diaz, or Ashley Judd.

What's the most romantic love song?

Titus would have to be "A Time For Us" from "Romeo and Juliet." Parts it the ultimate love story—very intense and passionate.

If you were not doing a show, who would you watch?

David Foreman. We were rehearsing for our respective shows at the same time in adjacent rehearsal studios and I liked what I heard. Nice guy... and his songs are timeless.

Who should we watch your show?

I'll be singing songs familiar to people but not often played on the radio, TV or even in shows. It will be a refreshing evening of nostalgia. Moreover, the proceeds will help rebuild the lives of the Albay typhoon victims.

MYMP

"MYMP is Live," with Bip Hussin, Feb. 14, SM Megamall Cinema 8. Call 403-5318 or 403-5319.

When you're not doing a concert, how do you celebrate Valentine's Day?

Aris Fernandez: I prefer to have dinner at home.... and maybe watch movies on DVD.

Chin Alcantara: I usually go out and have dinner somewhere. Sunday, we'll also watch a movie.

What's the most romantic Valentine's Day you've ever experienced?

KUH LEDESMA

MYMP

Who should we watch your show?

Jamie: Because it's going to be a romantic and relaxing evening, it'll make you fall in love again!

Chin: This is the show for you, whether you're in love, broken-hearted or just feeling romantic.

Bayard Gan Diego Jr.

What's an ideal Valentine date?

Jamie: Anywhere is "ideal" for as long as I'm with the one I love.

Chin: In Antipolo or Tagaytay. A candlelight dinner, with a breathtaking view of the city or the lake.

Who's your fantasy date?

Jamie: My boyfriend! But it would have to be a double dinner date with Leo Salonga and her husband Robert Chien.

Chin: Among local stars, Anne Curtis. Among Hollywood stars, Jessica Alba.

What's the most romantic love song?

Jamie: Nicole Jones' "Come Away With Me."

Chin: Alison Krauss' "Baby Now That I found You." Everything is right about it: the lyrics, the melody, the arrangement. It touches the heart.

If you were not doing a show, who would you watch?

Jamie: I'd love to watch Leo Salonga at the Waterfront Hotel in Cebu on Feb. 14.

Chin: Among local artists, I'd pick Side A. Among foreign acts, Boyz II Men.

Jamie hopes I'll get to experience it this year.

Chin: Back in high school, when my girlfriend and I opened the card we gave to each other, we discovered that they were exactly the same!

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Bayard Gan Diego Jr.

Other shows

Where And How Your 2007: Cliff Richard Live At Manila" is a one-night-only event on Feb. 13, 8 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum.

Produced by Scala Entertainment Corporation, this Manila leg of the British singer's world tour will showcase his songs of the '60s that Richard popularized.

These include "The Young Ones," "Have Wonderful To Know," "On The Beach," "The Next Time," "When The Girl In Your Arms Is The Girl In Your Heart," "Summer Holiday," "Constantly," "Suddenly Boy," "Theme For A Dream."

Tickets are at P8,500 (VVIP), P6,500, P4,000, P2,000 and P800. Call 891-3555.

The CompanY

The CompanY opens the Centennial Resort Hotel and Convention in Ann, Iloilo with the concert titled "Everlasting Love." Shanial 45, scene is Deck Mystic. Tickets are available at SM City Iloilo, SM Mandurriao, ROH Entertained Place Hotel and ABS-CBN Iloilo.

Kuh Ledesma

Diva Kuh Ledesma stars in "Love Is ..." Feb. 13 and 14 at the Cayuan's Bar of the

CHOOSE P4

ANNE and The Multitudes

GMA

Pebrero, buwan natin Kapuso

Maraming salamat sa inyo!

Tunay pong maganda ang simula ng ating taon dahil patuloy kaming

nangunguna sa inyong mga puso.

OVERALL CHANNEL RATINGS

Mega Manila TV Households TOTAL DAY (6am-12mn)

	4QTR 2006	JANUARY 2007
GMA	16.7	↑17.3
ABS-CBN	14.3	14.1
DIFF (GMA-ABS)	2.4	↑ 3.2

At sa kabila ng 'di maipaliwanag na pagkakaiba ng ratings ng cable at non-cable tv homes, patuloy pa ring nangunguna ang ating mga programa!

JANUARY 2007 CHANNEL RATINGS BY DAY PART

Mega Manila TV Households TOTAL DAY (6am-12mn)

	MORNING (6:00a - 12:00n)	AFTERNOON (12:00n - 6:00p)	EVENING (6:00p - 12:00a)
GMA	8.9	18.4	24.4
ABS-CBN	6.6	15.5	20.1
DIFF (GMA-ABS)	2.3	2.9	4.3

13 OUT OF THE TOP 20 PROGRAMS ARE ON GMA

Mega Manila TV Households JANUARY 2007

RANK	PROGRAM	CHANNEL	RATING %
1	ASIAN TREASURES	GMA	27.2
2	CAPTAIN BARBELL	GMA	10.2
3	24 ORAS	GMA	30.8
4	ATLANTIKA	GMA	29.6
6	BAKEKANG	GMA	28.3
7	IMBESTIGADOR	GMA	27.7
11	KAPUSO MO, JESSICA SOHO	GMA	26.8
12	A ROSEY LIFE	GMA	26.7
13	JOMONG	GMA	24.7
14	PINOY POP SUPERSTAR YEAR 2	GMA	23.8
15	EAT BULAGA	GMA	22.6
16	WIL & JOEY	GMA	22.6
20	BITOY'S FUNNIEST HOMOS YAN KAI	GMA	21.4

Ikinagagalak din naming ibahagi sa inyo ang ating mga

parangal mula sa NEW YORK FESTIVALS.

I-WITNESS *Boy Pusit* **GOLD medal**

I-WITNESS *Uuwi na si Udong* **FINALIST**

AT YOUR SERVICE Star Power (Qtv 11) **BRONZE medal**

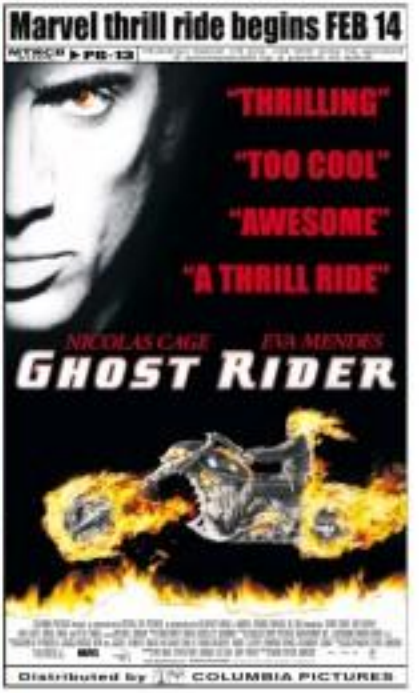
DAHIL KAYO ANG AMING INSPIRASYON, HIGIT PO NAMING PINAGBUBUTI ANG PAGHAHATID SA INYO NG MGA PROGRAMANG BAGO, ORIHINAL AT NAPAPANAHON.

Choose Your Valentine Show

Ivy Violes

Ivy Violes's "Easy to Love You" concert at the Bigtakes Ballroom of the Peninsula Manila Hotel on Feb. 14 marks her 25th anniversary in showbusiness.

The show also stars Sunny Zaragoza and Nanette Inventor and surprise guests Mel Villena will conduct the orchestra. Call 832-2474 or 832-2477.

•"Love Lads," a dance show at the Rachel Garden Tent on Feb. 14, will feature Tay Symphony and Mr Ucings performing popular tunes from the '50s to the '90s. Call 551-5555, ext. 1913 or 1247.

•Arjie & the Multivitamins will go onstage at the Holiday Oja Galleria Manila's last SNL on Feb. 14 in a concert titled "My Funny Valentine." Call 632-7111.